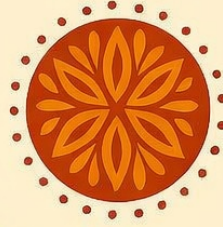


BLACK FAMILY DINNER & DIALOGUE



INITIATIVE



**Where Every Voice Has
a Seat at the Table**

CONVERSATION KIT

Black Family Dinner & Dialogue

Where Every Voice Has a Seat at the Table

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#BlackFamilyDAD

The name says it plainly: *D · A · D*

This initiative began with a simple conviction: that Black fathers leading their families to the table is worth doing on purpose, out loud, and together.

One hour. One table. No preparation. Print this kit or open it on your phone, read the lines set in italics out loud, and let your people talk.

That is the whole method.

Four things to say out loud first

- Everyone gets to speak, and everyone gets to pass.
- There are no right answers, only honest ones.
- What is said at this table stays at this table.
- Phones down. One hour.

Gathering virtually?

This works over video. Ask everyone to bring a plate to their screen so it is still a meal. The convener reads the same prompts and calls on people by name, since it is harder to find natural openings on a call.

This hour is yours to lead.

If you are a father, a stepfather, a grandfather, an uncle, or a man who has stood in that place for someone, this hour is yours. Not to perform. Not to lecture. To call your people to the table, ask the questions, and listen longer than you talk.

Leading looks like this: you send the invitation, you say when, you read the prompts, and you go first when a question is hard.

Going first is the whole job.

Then this hour belongs to *you*.

Mothers, grandmothers, aunts, older siblings, and guardians have held families together for generations and are the reason many of us are here at all.

The invitation is to whoever carries this family. Lead it exactly the same way.

Register your table

Add your family to the national map and see your city appear alongside every other table gathering this week.

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THE HOUR

SEVEN MOMENTS, ABOUT SIXTY MINUTES

The Hour

ONE

Welcome

5 min

TWO

Our Story

12 min

THREE

Our Family Today

10 min

FOUR

Fathers & Presence

12 min

FIVE

Our Community

9 min

SIX

Our Future

10 min

SEVEN

One Commitment

9 min

Read the line in *italics* out loud, then let people answer. Pick one or two questions from each section. That is enough.

6

Welcome

5 MIN

"Before we eat, let's go around the table. Say your name and one word for how you are arriving tonight."

- What is one good thing that happened to you this week?
- What are you grateful for right now?

Keep this quick. The point is to get every voice in the room once, early.

Our Story

12 MIN

"Let's talk about where we come from."

- Who in our family or community do you admire most, and why?
- What is a story about our people that should never be forgotten?
- What did our parents or grandparents try to pass down to us?

If an elder is at the table, let them go first and go long.

Our Family Today

"Now let's talk about us, right now, as we are."

- What is something you appreciate about someone at this table?
- What makes this family ours and nobody else's?
- What is something you wish we understood about you?

The last question can go deep. Let it, if the table is ready. Move on if it is not.

The next moment is the heart of this hour. Take a breath before you turn the page.

FOUR

Fathers & Presence

12 MIN

"This dinner started with fathers in mind, so let's talk about that honestly."

- What did you learn about fatherhood growing up, for better or worse?
- Who modeled responsibility, protection, or tenderness for you?
- What does being present look like, beyond being in the house?
- What do children need most from the men in their lives today?
- To the children at this table: what do you wish the grown men here knew?

Fathers, answer the first question yourself before asking anyone else. The table will go as deep as you go, and no deeper. If there is no father present, ask who filled that place and honor them out loud.

Our Community

9 MIN

"This table sits inside a neighborhood, a city, a people."

- What does it mean to care for our community?
- Who showed up for you when you needed it?
- What does leadership look like outside this house?

Showing up looks like voting, mentoring, volunteering, attending a school or city meeting, checking on a neighbor.

Our Future

10 MIN

"Let's look forward."

- What do you hope for yourself this year, and for this family?
- What do you want the next generation to remember about us?
- What kind of world do you want them to inherit?

Ask the youngest person at the table one of these first.

One Commitment

*"Before we get up, let's leave with one thing.
Not a list. One thing."*

- What is one thing you are taking from tonight?
- What is one habit we could build together as a family?
- When will we do this again?

A commitment spoken is a wish. A commitment written is a plan. Write it on the next page.

Our Commitment

AS A FAMILY, WE COMMIT TO

THE ONE WHO LED THIS TABLE COMMITS TO

ONE WAY WE WILL SHOW UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY

WE WILL GATHER AGAIN ON

When the room goes quiet

- Ask the same question to a different person instead of moving on.
- Answer it yourself first. People follow what is modeled, not what is asked.
- Try "say more about that" before trying a new question.
- Silence is not failure. Give it a count of five before filling it.

If it gets heavy

You can stop a section at any time. "That is a lot. Thank you for saying it" is a complete response. Skip a section entirely if the table is not ready for it. The hour still works.

*You called them
to the table.
That is the whole point.*

Take one photo of the table, not of the food.
Post it and set another family's table.

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