

3 KEY CONVERSATIONS



SEND
International



You feel called to missions but you're not sure how to talk about it with the significant people in your life. Here are some ideas for broaching this delicate topic with your loved ones.

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SPOUSE/SERIOUS SIGNIFICANT OTHER:

1. Schedule a sit-down conversation. Don't just throw the idea out while you're waiting for the movie to start.
2. Tell your significant other what God has been laying on your heart regarding missions.
3. Ask where he or she would stand as far as going into missions. If this is a new idea, you don't have to get into the nitty-gritty (where, how long, how would we educate our kids) at this point. Think big picture.
4. Be prepared to calmly and compassionately talk through fears, doubts, or objections.
5. Ask your spouse or significant other to commit to pray about this idea, both together and separately.
6. Make totally clear that you understand that both people need to be on board if a married couple is to serve overseas. Don't move forward together without unity each step of the way.



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PARENTS/IMMEDIATELY FAMILY:

1. Schedule a sit-down conversation. Don't just throw the idea out as you pass through the kitchen eating a banana.
2. Share with your family members why you think God may be calling you into missions. Don't end the conversation after you've shared! Ask them how they feel about the possibility of you serving in missions. Stay sensitive; this can be hard for close family members, especially if there are grandchildren, nieces or nephews involved.
3. Let them ask questions. This may be totally new to them—they may not understand "missions" as you do, they may not understand that God calls ordinary people. Don't get defensive if they seem to have tons of objections.
4. If you have been talking with a mission or mission representatives, get information about the mission. Be informed so that you can answer your family members' questions. They will want to know about safety, medical issues, whether you will be part of a team, etc.
5. If they have questions that you don't know the answers to (and they probably will), tell them that you will do more research and get back to them. Show that you value their feelings and input by following through. Don't commit to unknowns (for instance, how long you will serve).



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PASTOR/CHURCH:

1. Schedule a sit-down conversation. Don't just throw the idea out while you're passing out bulletins on Sunday morning. (Are you sensing a theme here?)
2. Explain that you feel God may be leading you into missions. Church leadership can provide wise counsel and affirm gifting. Some questions to ask your pastor or missions committee: Do they see qualifications in you for missions? Where do they think you need to grow? Can the pastor and/or the church help you in that area? What advice do they have for you? Is there anyone else they suggest you talk to?
3. Larger churches might offer a missionary preparation program. Ask what is involved and what you need to do to get started.
4. If your church is not very familiar with missions, you may want to work with a mission agency that can help provide resources for the church – without taking the place of the church!

