

Building a Jewish Home Together:

Interfaith Wedding Conversations Every Couple Should Have

These questions are an invitation, not a checklist. Bring curiosity rather than an agenda. The goal is not agreement on every point, but understanding each other well enough to build something neither of you could build alone.

IDENTITY AND BELONGING

1. When you imagine our home, what does it feel like? What would you want a guest to sense when they walk through the door?
2. What does "Jewish home" mean to you -- is it about practice, culture, values, food, memory, or something else entirely?
3. What parts of Jewish life do you already feel connected to, even if you didn't grow up Jewish? What still feels unfamiliar?
4. Are there traditions or spiritual practices from your own background that you hope will also have a place in our home?

HOLIDAYS AND RHYTHM

5. Which Jewish holidays feel most meaningful to you, and why? Which feel more optional?
6. How do you imagine handling holidays that overlap with celebrations from your family's background?
7. What does Shabbat mean to you? Is it something you'd want to feel in our home, even in a small way?
8. Are there Jewish rituals you'd be comfortable doing together? Any that feel like a line you're not sure about crossing?

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN

These questions are for couples who are considering or expecting children.

9. How do you imagine your children will understand who they are? What language will we use to describe their identity?
10. Do you want your children to have a Jewish education? A bar or bat mitzvah? How do you feel about that as someone who didn't grow up with it?
11. How will you talk to your kids about both of your backgrounds so they feel rooted rather than torn?
12. What do you hope your children will carry with them when they grow up and build their own homes?

COMMUNITY

13. Do you want to be part of a Jewish community together? What would make you feel genuinely welcomed, not just tolerated?
14. Is there a version of Jewish community life where you could see yourself thriving -- not just supporting your partner, but actually belonging?
15. Have you ever been in a Jewish setting where you felt included? Where you felt left out? What made the difference?

THE HARD CONVERSATIONS

16. Are there any Jewish practices or beliefs that genuinely conflict with something important to you? Can we talk about that honestly?
17. What do you need from your partner in order to feel like a full participant in your home -- not a guest in someone else's tradition?
18. What do I need to understand about what it asks of you to build a life oriented around a tradition that isn't yours?
19. Is there anything you've been afraid to ask about Judaism -- or afraid to say about how you actually feel?

THE VISION

20. Ten years from now, what do you hope our home feels like on a Friday night?
21. What is one Jewish value -- justice, hospitality, learning, repair of the world -- that already feels like yours too?
22. What would it mean for our home to be a place where both of our stories are honored?

At Neshamah, we believe every couple who walks through our doors -- whatever your background -- deserves a Jewish community that makes room for both of you. We are here to support you as you build your life together.

