

Sample Research Interview Questions

The below questions represent a sample of the kinds of questions that you will be asked during your scheduled interview. The questions have been grouped by theme, and are not exhaustive of all questions to be asked during the seventy-five minute interview. Since the nature of this interview is to explore the manner in which values concerning money and generosity were communicated in your youth and how you understand your current values regarding money and generosity as parents, questions concerning money and generosity are found in each thematic category.

General Biographical:

- What is your full name, age, and where do you consider home?
- What is your highest level of education?
- What is or was your profession?
- Are your parents or primary caregivers still alive? Do they currently have a role in your life?
- How old were you when you had children?
- How many children do you have? What are their ages?
- How would you characterize your financial well-being currently?

Family & Childhood:

- Were you raised by your parents or another caregiver? If a caregiver, were they a familial relation?
- Did you know your grandparents? If so, how much impact did they have on your family?
- How many siblings in your family? How many in the house at the same time as yourself?
- Did you grow up in a religious household? If so, how active were you in a faith community?
- How did your parents or primary caregivers earn money? Were you raised in a two income household?
- How would you characterize the financial well-being of your childhood?
- Were you aware of how much your parents or caregivers made as a child?
- What is your earliest memory of money? Is it a positive or negative story in retrospect?
- Did your parents or primary caregivers ever talk about money to you or our siblings?
- How would you characterize the values surrounding money held by your parents or caregivers?
- How did your parents or caregivers teach those lessons to you and your siblings?
- What is your earliest memory of giving or receiving?
- Were you aware of charitable giving in your household? If so, to which charities?
- Would you characterize your household as generous? Why or why not?
- Who most deeply touched your life as a giver? What made this individual memorable?
- Are there any family stories about money or the lack thereof that characterize your childhood?

Influence of Childhood & Parents on Values:

- What is the most meaningful or memorable gift you've ever received? Why does this one stand out?
- What lessons learned from your parents or caregivers have remained with you? Why do you think?
- Are there values concerning money held by your parents that you disagree with? Which ones and why?
- Have you made educational or career decisions based on the ability to make money?
- Do you consider yourself "good with money"?
- Have you made financial decisions that you regret in retrospect?
- Do you feel a sense of gratitude to people or places? If so, to whom or what?
- What values concerning money do you believe are most instructive to you as a parent?
- What values concerning money would you like to pass on to your child(ren)?
- How do you want to be remembered by your children when it comes to money and giving?
- To what charitable enterprises would you be generous if you had the capacity?