

INTERGENERATIONAL CLIMATE DISCUSSION GUIDE



From *One Green Thing: Discover Your Hidden Power to Help Save the Planet*

HOW TO MOVE FROM HOPE TO ACTION

ONE GREEN THING urges a multigenerational partnership to create lasting change. Our experiences and anxiety about climate change may differ, but our need for each other and for action are constant. An Intergenerational Partnership sounds great, but how do we begin? In some cultures, intergenerational conversation and activities are the norm. Here I'm encouraging you to have an intentional discussion about climate change and the future.

This initial step requires you to spend time together either virtually or in person. This partnership doesn't have to be with your family; it can be with your community. Meet with someone who's older and someone who's younger, to chat about cathedral thinking and a vibrant, sustainable future. What can you design or lay the groundwork for now that benefits the future? What behaviors can you change individually or together to support momentum for this vision?

As you collaborate, here are some Intergenerational Partnership principles to consider:

- **Ask.** The first step of an Intergenerational Partnership is to ask. Use open-ended questions about the issue—in this instance, climate change—and learn.
- **Listen.** For many young people, it's rare to be heard. Pause for two seconds before you respond. Be curious. Ask a follow-up question, and then ask another.
- **Share.** Talk about your own feelings, concerns, ideas. Don't assume the person you're talking with knows the historic event you're referring to or understands your perspective.
- **Learn.** Commit to growth. Hearing someone from a different generation explain their fears, dreams, and lessons learned can change your perspective.
- **Laugh.** If you're able to incorporate humor, even if it's laughing at yourself, you can open up space to be creative.
- **Brainstorm.** A partnership is not only listening and validating the other person's experience but also trying to form a positive vision of the future together.
- **Act.** After the previous six steps, come up with a plan. It doesn't have to be fancy, and you're not going to be graded on it. Share your progress with each other.