



**UNITE** Service and dialogue  
bring people together.

## AMERICA'S SUNDAY SUPPER CONVERSATION STARTERS

### Overview

On January 19, 2015, millions of people across the country will unite in service in honor of Dr. King. America's Sunday Supper is a key program of Points of Light. Inspired by Dr. King's vision of people of diverse backgrounds interacting on personal levels. America's Sunday Supper encourage people to share a meal and discuss issue that affect their communities, These conversations can also increase racial and cultural understanding, promote unity and draw useful lessons from the Civil Rights Movement that apply to today's challenges. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to your Sunday Supper using our digital invite. [Click here.](#)

An important piece of America's Sunday Supper is sparking conversation and sharing ideas. Below are some tips and conversation starters to help jump start your discussion. Also take a look at 5 Easy Steps to hosting your Sunday Supper and the full [America's Sunday Supper Cookbook and Conversation Guide.](#)

#### Discuss with Family, Friends and Neighbors

- a. How can we use our full range of assets and civic power (influence, time, advocacy and skills) to more fully participate in community and civic life?
- b. What does the civil rights conversation look like today? What are the important issues?
- c. Voting is an American principle and a basic democratic right. How do we protect, promote and practice this right?
- d. How do we have a conversation about race relations in this country and move forward in a constructive manner?
- e. How do we improve the sometimes troubled and tense relationships between police officers and the communities they serve?
- f. What is one thing you would like to change in your community? What are tangible steps you could take to make that change happen?

#### Tips for Having a Good Discussion

##### You do not have to be an expert

Don't feel as though you must be an expert on any of the issues. Stay neutral and ask the group if you're stuck.

##### Show Respect and Suspend Judgment

Conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking. Be tough on ideas, not on people – no personal attacks.

##### Look for Common Ground

Look for what you can agree on and simply appreciate that there will disagreement.

##### Allow time for closing dialogue and any follow-up steps

Leave time at the end for closing thoughts and summaries or to schedule your next discussion.

► **Spark a movement:** Ask your guests to commit to host their own America's Sunday Supper throughout the year so that these important conversations continue.

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