Discussion Questions

In your breakout sessions, introduce yourself to your groupmates, share where you are from and one piece of information about yourself….this could be your favorite hobby, food, pets…whatever.

When you have finished with introductions, start working through the questions below. Identify one piece of your group discussion that you will be willing to share with the group and identify someone comfortable sharing it. I will pop in and out of breakout rooms, but just don’t let me disrupt you.

1. Today’s careers are different than in the past. It used to be that people would learn a skill and that specialized knowledge allowed them to provide a service that others couldn’t. Now, we can use you-tube to figure out everything from how to fix the screen on our phones to fixing the leaky sink in your apartment. Careers have fundamentally changed and innovation and re-innovation is part of almost all career paths. Is adjusting to this a matter of perspective? Do you see this as negative or positive? Both?

It seems to me that most people don't have the time or know-how to go through and actually research a topic that might be beneficial to them. Just having the internet doesn’t guide you to trustworthy resources necessarily, and while the bar to learn something has for sure gotten lower, it’s still not something we can expect most people to be able to put the time into to learn.

1. The way we frame questions creates palpable feelings in ourselves and others. Asking questions in a way that creates positive feelings in ourself and others is a skill that requires practice. Try it out: Ask one of your group mates “why don’t you question anymore?” how does that make you feel? Ask another group member “What are the barriers to you asking more questions?” Is there a difference in how you feel about yourself?
2. What example of a question that led to innovation in chapter one did you like best? Why?
3. We often feel that someone smarter or more capable than us will solve the problems. What problem would you solve if you felt you were up to the task?
4. If leaders and managers focus on “why are we falling behind, who is to blame?” This leads to a culture of turf-guarding and finger-pointing. If the questions asked tend to be more expansive and optimistic, then that is reflected in the culture. “We all live in the world our questions create”. We are living in a time of unprecedented challenges. It is easy to get negative and this can impact our lives and our well-being. Can you re-frame one question in your life so that it leads to a more positive feeling? Share with the group if you feel comfortable doing so.

Arthur Aron’s was a psychologist and he found that friendship could be boosted between two perfect stranger by having them ask each other a set of 36 questions. Ask eachother the first 6 of Aron’s 36 questions.

1. Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?
2. Would you like to be famous? In what way?
3. Before making a telephone call, do you ever rehearse what you are going to say? Why?
4. What would constitute a “perfect” day for you?
5. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?
6. If you were able to live to the age of 90 and retain either the mind or body of a 30-year-old for the last 60 years of your life, which would you want?