# Legacy Module 5. Exploring Our Why

**Purpose:**
Explore why we are each involved, and what's the big why behind our family philanthropy

**Outcomes:**

- Each individual has a chance to reflect on their own reasons for participation
- Shared understanding of individual motivations
- Discussion of why the family giving enterprise exists, big picture

**Process:**
Individual reflection, paired conversation, and group discussion

**Materials:**
Paper and pen (individual), white board or flip chart paper

Understanding what drives us—that is, our "big why" both individually and as a collective—is an important piece of grounding our philanthropic work together as a family.

***Activity:***
Begin by explaining that in this meeting, you'll be exploring the why behind what you do; share the POP above informally to explain why and how you'll be doing so.

The first piece of this activity is called *The Five Whys*. Working in pairs (you can have one triad if numbers don't quite work), arrange yourself physically so you are eye-to-eye and knee-to-knee. If online, move into paired breakout groups. Do your best to be fully focused on your partner, maintaining great eye contact and using supportive body language and affirmations. Each individual has five minutes that is totally about them, using the prompts below. Decide which partner will be reflecting first.

This is an exercise in repeated asking and listening. The reason? Repeated asking and answering why helps us surface more answers—and often deeper ones. Don't worry if you don't think you have more to say—you might repeat earlier reflections that seem most salient, you may have a few minutes of silence, or you may find you have more to say than you expected! Just be present in the conversation and see what emerges. Your listening partner can "mm hmmm" and nod affirmatively, but this is not a standard back and forth conversation. They simply ask and listen actively. They'll get their turn next!

Here's how the process goes. The same question is asked repeatedly—five times.

Begin your five-minute timer.

Partner A asks: "Why are YOU involved in our family philanthropy?"

Partner B answers.

Partner A asks (again): "Why are YOU involved in our family philanthropy?"

Partner B answers.

Partner A asks (again): "Why are YOU involved in our family philanthropy?"

Partner B answers.

Partner A asks (again): "Why are YOU involved in our family philanthropy?"

Partner B answers.

Partner A asks (again): "Why are YOU involved in our family philanthropy?"

When timer goes off after five minutes, thank your partner and switch.

Debrief as a group. Possible questions:

-How was that? How was it to reflect repeatedly? How was it to just talk and answer without the expectation of conversation? How was it to be in listener-only mode?

-Observations or themes that emerged?

**Next, we'll explore our collective big why—that is, the answers to the question:**

**Why are we engaged in family philanthropy? Why do we give, and why do we do so *together*?**

Put this question up on a white board, or in the chat if you're online, and give everyone a few minutes to jot down on their own paper as many answers as they can.

Then, share your collective responses on a big brainstorm list. Give everyone a chance to identify which of the responses on the brainstorm list feel like the one to three most important drivers, and flag these with asterisks. Discuss these most important ones together to help you best understand your big why.

Take a picture of this collective list and save in your meeting notes for easy future reference.