

# ICEBREAKERS

1. If you could describe yourself as a color, what color describes you best?  
This need not be your favorite color, but the one that tells who you are.
2. What city describes you? What is the place most like you?
3. If you could be an animal or bird, what one describes you?
4. Where is the place I retreat to when I need to get myself together? Why?
5. Who is the person I admire most? Why?
6. If I had a million dollars, what would I do with it?
7. The time I do my best thinking is...
8. What would I like to have said about me when I die?
9. The most inspiring thing that happened in my life is...
10. If you could choose a car that you liked best, what would you choose?
11. With what comic strip character do you most identify?
12. The hardest decision I have ever made was...
13. Are you a:
  - ♥ listener... or talker
  - ♥ spender... or saver
  - ♥ driver... or rider
  - ♥ optimist... or pessimist
  - ♥ doer... or thinker
  - ♥ pitcher... or catcher
  - ♥ rabbit... or turtle
  - ♥ fighter... or peacemaker
  - ♥ giver... or receiver
  - ♥ player... or spectator
  - ♥ pioneer... or settler
  - ♥ right now... or later
  - ♥ easy going... or hyper
  - ♥ loner... or grouper
  - ♥ leader... or follower
14. The event I remember most from my childhood was...
15. Outside of my parents, the people who had the greatest influence on my life were...
16. The biggest disappointment I ever had was...
17. The best adult friend I ever had, outside of my own family, was...
18. The most exciting thing happening in my life right now is...
19. What qualities do you look for in a friend?

20. If your close friends were to describe you with some of the modern advertising slogans, which ones would they pick for you?

- ✓ Reach out and touch someone
- ✓ Things go better with... (coke)
- ✓ Gentle but effective
- ✓ Everything you want and a little bit more
- ✓ Oh wat a feeling
- ✓ When you care enough to send the very best
- ✓ You've come a long way, baby
- ✓ The friendly skies
- ✓ Just one look... That's all it took
- ✓ When \_\_\_\_\_ talks, people listen
- ✓ Don't leave home without it
- ✓ Let the good times roll
- ✓ Takes a licking and keeps on ticking
- ✓ Leave the driving to us
- ✓ Put a tiger in your tank
- ✓ We try harder
- ✓ You're in good hands
- ✓ Think small
- ✓ Life is too short not to go first class
- ✓ We do it all for you
- ✓ We treat you right
- ✓ Because time goes by

21. If you could put a poster in your room describing you, what poster would you choose?

- a) All things are possible through Christ.
- b) Winning isn't everything. It is the only thing.
- c) When God closes a door, another one opens.
- d) Love is patient and kind.
- e) You can see my value system here.
- f) If you are not good to yourself, I can't be.
- g) Keep within your heart a place where dreams can grow.
- h) I believe in the sun, even if it does not shine.
- i) Fragile: handle with care.
- j) Take life one day at a time.
- k) Prayer changes things.
- l) Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
- m) Caution: Human beings here.
- n) Lord, protect me from myself.
- o) The power of God is at work here.
- p) Let me think about it, Lord.
- q) Wish you hadn't asked.
- r) Whatever you say, Lord.
- s) Things go better with love.
- t) Try it; you'll like it.

# THE ART OF QUESTIONING

One of the most important skills a group facilitator must cultivate is that of asking questions.

## PURPOSES AND TYPES:

The purpose for asking a question will determine what kind of question you are asking and will help you evaluate the response.

1. **INFORMATION SEEKING** – An information-seeking question asks for specific data and is usually direct and concise. *What are the names of the Synoptic Gospels?*
2. **INSIGHT**- An insight question asks for a vision or insight into a topic based on the person's experience and ideas. *What do you suppose was Mary of Nazareth's first thought when she knew of the lack of wine at the wedding in Cana?*
3. **OPINION SEEKING** – An opinion-seeking question leads to discussion. *What do you think provoked Jesus to tell the story of the rich man and Lazarus?*
4. **PROBLEM CENTERED** – A problem-centered question asks for an understanding of an existing problem. *More and more Catholics seem to be turning to Fundamentalism in their approach to Scripture study. Is there some practical thing that our Bible Study Group can do about this trend?*
5. **EVALUATING** – An evaluating question asks for an evaluation of an existing situation, program, or problem. *Why is it that our parish seems to have such little interest in our existing adult religious education programs?*
6. **SCOPE WIDENING** – A scope-widening question tells you where the participant stands in understanding a topic or an expressed opinion. *Do you agree with the scholars who propose that the Beloved Disciple might have been someone other than the Apostle John? Why, or why not?*
7. **LEADING** – A leading question leads to an acceptance of a suggestion which might otherwise be rejected. *Don't you think that....?*

## TIMING IS IMPORTANT:

1. Allow thinking time before you expect the listener to respond.
2. Be sure not to cut off a response to ask another question.
3. Sometimes it is best not to ask a question but to allow time for reflection. Remember that some things are to be shared, not evaluated.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD QUESTIONS:

1. Concisely stated; clear and unambiguous.
2. Appropriate for the persons addressed. Avoid using overly technical language.
3. Engaging, in that they require some extended response, rather than a simple 'yes' or 'no'.
4. Simple, in that each question asks for only one thing, not several different things.
5. Organized, so that one question flows evenly to the next question.

## QUESTIONS TO EVALUATE QUESTIONS:

1. Do your questions increase a person's desire as well as capacity to learn?
2. Do they help to provide a person with confidence in his/her ability to learn?
3. Do they help to give a person a sense of joy in learning?
4. In order to get answers, is the person required to make inquiries?
5. Does each question allow for alternative answers?
6. Does the process of answering the questions tend to stress the uniqueness of each person?
7. Do the questions produce different answers if asked at different stages of a person's development?
8. Do the answers help a person to sense and understand the universals in the human condition and so enhance his/her ability to draw closer to other people?