

# Building Real Community

## Sample History Sharing

- *Make a collage of your life and tell the group about it.*
- *Make a timeline. - choose 3-5 events that were significant in making you are who you are today (not birth!). Take time for each person to explain their timeline.*
- *Have each member draw a self-portrait and have the other members guess who it is (you can also use baby pictures). When accurately guessed, have the person tell a little about themselves.*
- *Have a hot seat where a member draws from a pile of questions and has to answer the question he or she drew. Or, have each person answer these questions.*
  - *When did God become more than a word to you?*
  - *What are 3 things (events or something about your family culture) that make you who you are today, good or bad?*
  - *What one thing is it important for the group to know about you?*

## Sample Activities

- *Group communion*
- *Group activities outside of scheduled meeting times (rock climbing, going to a movie, sleepovers etc.)*
- *Have each member tell two truths and one lie about themselves and make the other members guess which is the lie.*

## Group Openers and Share Questions

Using group openers is a basic, yet essential, Small Group skill. Icebreaker ideas and share questions are designed to facilitate discussion about members' personal lives and to help them open up more freely. They are **not** designed for simple **yes** and **no** answers.

Use your own judgment with these questions and statements. Some of them are built to bring about deep emotions; others are more surface level and fun. Judge where your group is and plan your icebreaker accordingly. As your group moves deeper throughout the semester/year, feel free to use deeper icebreaker questions.

What is your favorite movie and why?

If you suddenly lost your eyesight, what would be the thing you missed seeing the most?

My favorite way to waste time is \_\_\_\_\_.

Who is the most famous person you've known or met? How did it happen?

What is your biggest fear about death?

What's the worst storm or disaster you've been in? What was it like?

What day of your life would you most like to relive? Why?

What has been one of the greatest adventures you have ever been on?

What was the best gift you ever received as a child?

Which do you value most – speech or sight? Why?

If your house was on fire, what three items (not people) would you try to save?

Tell about a particularly embarrassing moment at your work or school.

Discuss a Spiritual passion that you're discovering about yourself and your journey to discovering this.

Talk about a powerful "God moment" in your life and why it has been so impacting to you.

Autobiography question: What would definitely have to be a chapter?

Describe yourself in three words

Which comic book hero or villain best represents you? Why?

A movie is being made about your life. What is it called and who plays you?

Does your family have any unusual traditions or past times?

If you were to open your own restaurant, what would be your signature dish?

If we got in your car right now, would the radio be blasting or turned down? What is playing?

What is the most valuable lesson you have learned since...

If you really knew me, you would know... (you can go around the group more than once with this question)

If money were not problem, and you could choose one place in the world to travel for a week, where would that place be and why?

Who is your number one advisor in life and why?

You have three wishes. What would you wish for?

What is the most daring thing you have ever done? What made it so daring?

What's the story behind the longest time you've ever gone without sleep?

If you could do one miracle (other than make the whole world Christian), what would you do and why?

What do you miss most about childhood?

What's the biggest lie you ever told?

If given a choice, how would you choose to die? How do you *not* want to die?

What is your biggest fear about death?

Just for the fun/thrill of it, before I die I'd like to \_\_\_\_\_.

My number two career choice would be \_\_\_\_\_.

As a time traveler, I would most like to visit \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

If I could invent a gadget that would make my life easier, I'd invent something that would \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

I am most like my mom/dad in that I \_\_\_\_\_.

I have never quite gotten the hang of \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm a bundle of nerves/all thumbs when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_.

I will probably never \_\_\_\_\_, but it would still be fun if I could.

What are a couple of things you remember about your grandparents?

What does your name mean? Why were you named that?

What is one of the most memorable dreams you have ever had?

If you were going to leave the world one piece of advice before you died, what would you say?

If you could raise one person from the dead, who would you raise and why?

Who was the most interesting person you or your family ever entertained?  
What is the nicest thing anybody ever said about you?  
What one thing would you like your obituary to say about you?  
Where do you go or what do you do when life gets too heavy for you?  
Which do you value most, sight or speech?  
When you were growing up, who was the neighborhood bully? What made that person so frightening?  
What is the best news you have heard this week? The worst news?  
What was one of the worst things your sibling(s) did to you as a child?  
When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? What did your parents want you to be?  
Who was your hero when you were growing up? How did you try to imitate him/her?  
I suspect that behind my back people say that I'm \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.  
In what area of your life would you like to have greater peace?  
If you could some day have a worldwide reputation for something, in what area would you like that to be? Why?  
What is one of your biggest fears about the future?  
Of the things money can buy, what do you long for the most?  
If you had to go to prison for a year, what do you imagine to be the hardest part of the experience?  
Describe a grade school teacher that made a big impression on you (good or bad).  
You have been given a year sabbatical from work/school. You can't go more than 150 miles from any one period of time. What would you do?  
Break your life into three equal segments. What was the most significant event from each of these periods of time?  
Have each person in the group answer for every other member of the group: "I'm so glad God made you \_\_\_\_\_ because that aspect of who you are is \_\_\_\_\_."  
Something I have from my childhood I'll probably never give up is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.  
The most useless thing in my house is \_\_\_\_\_ but it's still there because \_\_\_\_\_.  
The thing in my wallet/purse that tells the most about who I think I really am is \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***Accountability or Disclosure?***

In the typical American Christian small group we love to use the word accountability. But if we are precise in our definitions, we really don't have accountability; we only have disclosure. A group member is often willing to disclose personal struggles and decisions, but there is usually no invitation to challenge the choices or to hold the person accountable to an objective standard.