

Impacting People through the Art of Conversation
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BRAINSTORM: What interested you in taking this workshop?

Shaping Our Growth

- Control
- Care
- Conviction

I. CONFIDENCE to Start a Conversation!

BRAINSTORM

1. When having a conversation with a stranger, which situation makes you most nervous?

Party, plane, job, standing in line, blind date...other _____

2. Why does it make you nervous or anxious?

- "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4
- "I hope in the Lord to send Timothy to you...I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interest, not those of Jesus Christ." Philippians 2:19-20

1. **Initiate** _____

2. **Inquire** _____

3. **Introduce** _____

A. _____ Icebreakers

1. What brings you here?
2. What do you think of the movie/party/restaurant etc.?
3. What a great event/conference, what's been your favorite part?
4. Tell me about....(kids, family, vacation etc.)
5. Tell me about a good movie you've seen lately?
6. What are you doing for the holidays?
7. How long have you lived here? Where did you grow up? How does it compare to here?
8. What do you do to unwind?
9. What kind of hobbies do you have? How did you get started?
10. What do you do for work?

- What does a typical day look like for you? What's your favorite part of your job? What do you dislike most? If you could do anything for work, what would it be? What advice would you give someone starting in this field?

PRACTICE:

Turn to the person next to you, and practice.

"Hello I'm _____, I don't believe we've met. My name is _____, what's your name?"

B. _____ Icebreakers

1. Bring me up to speed on....
2. So how's your job going now?
3. What's changed in your life since we talked last?
4. How's your year been?
5. What's new with the family?

C. _____ Icebreakers.

- "Kind words are like honey – sweet to the soul and healthy for the body." Prov. 16:24

1. Appearance
2. Possession
3. Behavior

II. CRAFT the Conversation to be Meaningful & Memorable

- "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." Eph. 4:29
- "...Help others with **encouraging words**; don't drag them down by finding fault..."
Romans 14:19 The Message
-

A. A _____ follow up Questions

B. B_____ a good Listener

BRAINSTORM: How do you know someone's listening to you?

C. C_____ Killers

BRAINSTORM: What can kill a conversation?

- Which trap do you need to be careful of?

Bragging

Dominating

Silence

Interrupting

Know it all

Defensiveness

Negativity

Asking only “yes & no” questions.

Other _____

- “Do everything without complaining or arguing...shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life” ...Phil. 2:16

III. CIRCLE the Conversation Toward Spiritual Things

- “Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.” Colossians 4:5-6

1. Be prayerful

- “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15

2. Be interested in them

3. Build a bridge

4. Be confident

BRAINSTORM: What was most helpful?

- **Great Books**

“Winning With People” by John Maxwell

“How to Win Friends and Influence People.” by Dale Carnegie

“Small Talk” by Debra Fine