

ICEBREAKERS



THE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD

HEAD OFFICE 012 667 1072/3/4/5

Distributed by ISAAC, Evangelism arm of the FGC
DIRECTOR: Pastor M M Berrangé 083 456 0946

Compiled by Tania Berrangé

ICEBREAKERS

INTRODUCTION

What is an icebreaker?

It's a simple question which helps people to feel comfortable in a group. It helps individuals to focus on others.

Why do we use icebreakers?

Icebreakers are essential to the growth of cell churches. People do not easily open up in a group in terms of their needs and pain. They must learn to share, that it is safe to share. Without ice breakers the group will not have the confidence to share difficult situations openly. Icebreakers can help you get to know things about your cell members which otherwise you would never have known.

How long should an icebreaker be?

A typical icebreaker should take less than a minute to be answered by each member; otherwise you will spend more than an hour on an ice breaker. Icebreakers should only take 5-10 minutes.

Different types of icebreakers

There are thousands of questions you can ask your group, depending on what you want to accomplish. If your group is new, select icebreakers which will introduce the history of each group member. Ask questions which will make people feel more comfortable. If you already have come to know each other and spent some time together, a question like, "What's the biggest thing that happened last week?", could be useful.

Icebreakers for the different phases of the cell life

There are five phases of the cell life: introduction, conflict, community outreach and increase. At each stage different icebreakers are used. Remember that the icebreaker is a question channeling everyone's focus into a particular direction, not to take time from the opportunity to minister.

How to facilitate a good icebreaker

The best way is to ask a question and then answer it by sharing from your own life and experience. Then turning to the person to your right or left side, ask him or her to share as well. This does two things: it determines how long the answer should be and also gives a good example of the answer itself. Ask people to keep additional comments till afterwards. Give people permission to refrain from answering if they somehow do not want to talk, so they won't feel pushed into the limelight.

How to handle the unexpected

What happens when someone unexpectedly shares something intense during the icebreaker ("I lost my job." "My father died yesterday." "My wife left me.") Thank the person for sharing this profound information unexpectedly; then tell this person that you will pray for him or her directly after the worship, when all the cell members will be able to serve another person. In this way you will not move into the opportunity to minister before their hearts are prepared.

What happens when someone is sharing something inappropriate about his wife, parents or the church? Mention that it is not the appropriate opportunity to share the information, then turn to the whole group and say, "This group is a safe place. Here we love you and no word or deed of yours will make us like you less". Then proceed as quickly as possible. There is nothing more embarrassing than to chew on an inappropriate comment.

Make sure you pray carefully about what you want to ask the group, so no one, including yourself, can be placed in an embarrassing position.

CATCH UP

1. Name a remarkable thing that happened to you the past week?
2. How did God bless you the past week?
3. How would you describe your week in terms of a car (sports car, luxury sedan, etc.)?
4. What was the best thing about your week?
5. If you can name one thing that has happened since our last meeting, what would it be?

LIGHT-HEARTED AND WELCOMING

1. What is the most fulfilling work you have done?
2. Tell us the story about your worst haircut ever.
3. What is the best gift you received as a child?
4. Share one of your strong points.
5. Who was your favourite friend as a child? Why?
6. What is your favourite insect?
7. Complete the following sentence: "People may be surprised to find out that I _____".
8. What would you do if you could take one day off this week?
9. Which scar on your body is your favourite? How did it happen?
10. Which room in your house is your favourite?
11. What is the most expensive gift anyone has ever given you?
12. As a child, who was your favourite babysitter?
13. Name a car that best describes you and explain why?
14. Does your name have a special meaning? Was the name of someone special given to you?
15. Which of the following restrictions would you deal with the best: to leave your country, or not to leave the country you live in?
16. When last did you have something for the first time?
17. Which item of your clothing is your favourite?
18. What is the best compliment you have ever received?
19. Who was your hero when you grew up? In what way did you try to imitate him/her?
20. Who is the most interesting person whom has ever visited you or your family?
21. What do you like most about life?
22. What was your first nickname?
23. If you could take a pill that would enable to live 1000 years old, would you take it? Why or why not?

24. Which actor or actress will play your life best? _____
25. What is the first trip or vacation that you and your family have taken? What do you remember about that trip? _____
26. If someone you could ask a question that will guarantee that you start talking non-stop what would that question be? _____
27. What is your favourite hobby or sport? How did you start this? _____
28. What are your three most favourite activities? _____
29. When you are cold, what is your favourite way to warm up? _____
30. Who do you respect the most? _____
31. Explain your week in colours. _____
32. Did you ever in your life want to swap lives with another person? With whom? _____
33. What was your strangest dream? _____
34. What is your favourite pillow (feathers, flat, thickly stuffed)? _____
35. What is your favourite store? Which shelf in that store is your favourite? _____
36. What's your favourite seat in a plane (front, rear, window, middle path)? _____
37. Where and how did you learn to drive a motor car? _____
38. What animal describes your personality best? _____
39. Do you have favourite clothes that were ugly in the opinion of others? _____
40. What's the longest phone conversation you've ever had and with whom did you speak? _____
41. Which shoe do you put on first? _____
42. What skills do you possess which you like best? _____
43. Who is your favourite detective? _____
44. Describe your favourite pet? _____
45. What is the best thing that has happened to you last year? _____
46. Do you exercise regularly? Why or why not? _____
47. Complete: I take after my dad mostly in the sense that I _____?
48. Complete: I take after my mother in the sense that I _____?
49. What is your favourite "junk food"? _____
50. Who was your favourite friend and how long did the friendship last? _____
51. Share one positive thing about the person on your right. _____
52. When you were a child, how did your parents try to make you feel better when you were sick? _____
53. What would your ideal holiday be? _____
54. What is your favourite book? _____
56. What music or radio station do you listen to in the car? _____
57. What is the best thing for you to do when you feel you are becoming angry? _____
58. What is your favourite time of day and why? _____
59. List three activities you like to do with your friends. _____
60. Describe your idea of a perfect evening. _____
61. If you had no electricity for a whole week, what would you miss the most? _____
62. What is your most precious memory? _____
63. Complete the following sentence: "Just for fun, before I die someday, I would like to _____". _____
64. How much did you pay for the shoes you now wear? _____
65. Tell us about your first toy you can remember. _____
66. What is the first family car that you remember? What about that car can you remember? _____
67. What is the best advice you ever received? _____
68. What is the best meal you have ever eaten? _____
69. What is the worst meal you have ever eaten? _____
70. What is the best trip you have ever taken? _____
71. What is the worst trip you have ever had? _____
72. What was the most stupid thing on which you have spent your money? _____

73. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done? _____
74. What is the nicest thing anyone has ever said to you? _____
75. What is the oldest item of clothing that you still wear? _____
76. Name your favourite holiday destination. _____
77. Describe your first "date". _____
78. What is the silliest name for a pet you have ever heard? _____
79. What do you have lots of in your home? _____
80. How do you think you'll be 10 years from now? _____
81. When you were small, what did you want to become when you grow up? _____
82. Use weather terminology (e.g. cloudy, etc.) to describe your life during the past week. _____

GO DEEPER

1. Tell us about the time when you lied to someone or when someone lied to you. How did you feel? _____
2. What is the worst storm or disaster you have ever experienced in your life? _____
3. What about yourself did you not like when you were a teenager and how did it change? _____
4. Which person has the greatest impact on your life (it may not be God or the person that led you to Christ). _____
5. What is the most unselfish thing you recently did? _____
6. What is the most difficult holiday you've ever had as a child? Why? _____
7. What is your greatest need for the year ahead? _____
8. What smell brings on the strongest memories? _____
9. What was the first career mistake you made? _____
10. What is the longest time you went through without sleep? Why? _____
11. What is your reaction when someone tells you that you do something wrong? _____
12. What is your most compulsive habit? How are you trying to let go? _____
13. In which way do you feel trapped? _____
14. What is one thing you would like to change about how you were brought up? _____
15. Which topic is too serious to make jokes about? _____
16. How would you like to be remembered? _____
17. Which of your birthdays brings back the most memories and why? _____
18. Who have you recently tried to please and why? _____
19. What do you do to relax and recharge after a busy day? _____
20. Tell us one thing you have learned about yourself in the past few years. _____
21. If you could change anything from your past, what would it be? _____
22. If you could get one thing in your parents' or child's head, what would it be? _____
23. If you could give advice, what would it be? _____
24. What have you learned this week? _____
25. Did you like high school? Why or why not? What would you do differently? _____
26. Do you like going to parties. Why or why not? _____
27. How long have you ever held a grudge against anyone? How did you solve it? _____
28. Whom do you have the best relationship with: your mom or your dad? Why? _____
29. Do you express your feelings verbally? Why or why not? _____
30. What do you do with gifts that you dislike? _____
31. How do you feel about the elderly? When is a person old in your opinion? _____
32. How do you think people would describe you? _____
33. Name one poor habit you're trying to get rid of. _____
34. Have you ever been caught out telling a lie? What happened? _____
35. Do you usually do what you like to do, or do you do what others want to you to? _____

36. Do you feel uncomfortable eating out alone or going to the movies on your Own? _____
37. How often do you laugh during the week? _____
38. If someone murders one of your family members would you be able to forgive him or her? _____
39. You find out that your best friend lives a homosexual lifestyle; what do you do? _____
40. If we should ask your family members what you complain about most, what would their response be? Why do you complain? _____
41. What are you most thankful for in your life? _____
42. Where do you go to or what do you do when life gets too stressful? _____
43. How do you react when someone compliments you? _____
44. What in your life do you like most? What do you like least? _____
45. Would you rather prefer to be blind or deaf? _____
46. What is your greatest joy; your greatest sadness; your greatest challenge? _____
47. When last did you cry in the presence of someone else? When was the last time you cried by yourself? _____
48. What is the hardest thing you have ever had to tell someone? _____
49. Describe a typical holiday with your family. _____
50. If your friends and family are willing to tell you what they think about you, would you like them to do it? Why or why not? _____

A LOOK AT THE MORE PROFOUND, SPIRITUAL SIDE OF LIFE

1. How do you handle a bad situation? _____
2. When was the last time you experienced the joy of ministering to a person? _____
3. Where were you when you last prayed intensively? Did your environment help or stop you from praying? _____
4. What is the best thing about our church? _____
5. What do you like most about the pastor? _____
6. Have you told people about the sins of your past? Why or why not? _____
7. How has God used you recently? _____
8. What is the most meaningful thing you've ever done for someone else? _____
9. Have you ever shared a deep struggle with a close friend? How did you feel? _____
10. If you have a question to ask to Noah, what would it be? _____
11. When did you experience God's presence during this past week? _____
12. In which specific ways have you grown in Christ during the last month? _____
13. Which celebrity would you like to be born-again? _____
14. How is your relationship with God; does your life reflect your relationship with him? What would happen should you die tonight? _____
15. How do you feel about paying tithes? _____
16. What does the word "hate" mean to you? _____
17. What is your spiritual temperature tonight (use °C to describe it); why? _____
18. Tell us one thing that you have learned about God. _____
19. What part of your personality is God busy changing? _____
20. If you could ask Jesus to change one thing in the world, what would it be? _____
21. What do you trust God to do now? _____
22. What does heaven look like? _____

WHEN THE GROUP MULTIPLIES

1. How do you feel about the numbers increasing in our group?
2. What have you learned in the last cell cycle?
3. What is one thing that the Lord has done for you through someone else in this cell?
4. What is the most difficult thing you learned during this cell?
5. Use one word to describe the time spent together as a group.
6. Is there anything about increasing numbers that scares you? Name it.
7. What gives you joy when our numbers increase?
8. Have you ever experienced multiplication before? How is the multiplication of this cell different?
9. What was the most difficult phase in this cell?
10. What was the easiest phase in this cell?
11. What would you do differently in your next cell?
12. What have you learned from one of your cell members during this cycle?
13. What has your cell leader taught you that has the biggest impact on you?
14. Which act of service rendered by the cell changed you?
15. Recall one thing that happened in this cell which had a huge impact on your life.
16. What have you learned in this cell about reaching out?
17. Which of your prayers were answered in this cell?
18. Have you brought anyone to visit this cell? Are there other people you want to invite to the new cell?
19. How long did it take for this group to multiply? Are you happy with that? Would you like to do something else?

FOR THE CHILDREN

1. What causes the most fights between your brothers and sisters?
2. What is your favourite game?
3. How much TV do you watch during the week? What is your favourite programme?
4. What makes you very angry and what do you do when you are angry?
5. What would you like to be when you grow up?
6. Do you earn your own money? If so, is there anything specific that you are saving for?
7. How do you talk to God?
8. What is your favourite sport?
9. For which house chores are you responsible?
10. Which house chore do you like least?
11. What is your favourite subject at school?
12. Which school subject do you like least?
13. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go to?
14. What is your favourite toy?
15. What was your best holiday?
16. Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever been caught out telling a lie?
17. What is your favourite pet?
18. Are you a morning or a night person?
19. What is the best gift you have ever received?
20. What is the best gift you have ever given?
21. If someone ridicules another, do you join in the mocking, do you try to stop it or do you simply ignore it?

22. How do you like contributing money to others or to help the church?
23. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?
24. If you may ask anything from God, what would it be?
25. What is the best birthday party you have ever had?
26. How do you feel when you come home from school?
27. What do you like most about our church?
28. Which celebrity would you like to be born-again?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR DREAMS?

1. What is the most fulfilling work you have ever done?
2. If you could spend the rest of your life doing a specific thing you want to do, what would it be?
3. What is the one thing you want to achieve next week?
4. What skills would you like to add to your skills-list?
5. Share one of your dreams that has not yet come true.
6. If you could spend an afternoon with anyone **in** the world, who would it be?
7. Name one of your life goals.
8. What is one thing that you want to achieve within the next five years?
9. If you could wake up tomorrow morning with a new skill or ability, what would it to be?
10. What is your greatest need for the year ahead?
11. If you had enough money to do anything you want to do, what would it be?
12. If you know that you can not fail, what would you do?
13. What do you want to do when you retire one day?
14. What is your dream job?
15. Is there something which you have been dreaming about for a long time? Why don't you do it?
16. Is there something that prevents you from achieving your goals in life? What can you do to overcome this problem?

LOOKING BACK INTO THE PAST

1. Where did you grow up?
2. How many people are in your family?
3. Where have you travelled or toured?
4. What have you achieved in your life?
5. What was your family's outlook and views about God?
6. Where were you born? Tell us something you remember about growing -up.
7. What are important traditions in your family?
8. What family features have you inherited? What don't you like?
9. Do you possess an old family item which has been passed on from one generation to the next?
10. What school did you attend?
11. What was your favourite subject at school?
12. In which extramural activities did you participate?
13. What was your first job?
14. What is the most courageous thing you have ever done?

WHAT IF ?

1. If you receive a large sum of money, what would you do with it?
2. If you could work in a circus, what would you do?
3. You are at a friend's house for dinner and find a dead fly in the salad, what do you do?
4. If your house is on fire, which three items (not people) will you try to save?
5. If you are told you need to join the army, which section do you want to be a part of?
6. If you could be the coach of any professional sport, what would you choose? Why?
7. If you receive a budget to do a one-hour TV show, what would you do and with whom would you do it?
8. If you have to take a 12 hour flight overseas, who would you like to sit next to you? Why?
9. When a meteorite hits the earth within one month from now, how would you spend that month?
10. If you are shipwrecked and find yourself alone on an island, which tool would you want to be equipped with and why?
11. If you have to give away a limb of your body, what would it be and why?
12. If you have to give away one of your possessions, what would you give and why?
13. If you have two tickets for a once-in-a-lifetime concert and your friend is sick and needs you to look after her children, what would you do?
14. If you can only be with one person when you die, who would it be?

ICEBREAKERS THAT SHOULD NEVER BE USED

1. What is the biggest stronghold in your life now?
2. What is the secret you never told your spouse yet?
3. Tell us about the time in your life you felt like a huge failure?
4. What event in King David's life do you find the most appealing? (or any other Bible-knowledge questions that will estrange people)
5. What is the one thing you would want to change in the person to your right?
6. What is the worst name someone called you?
7. Turn to the person on your left and tell us how this person can be a better parent.
8. Name a sin of someone in this room, so we can pray for that person.
9. What gossip have you heard this week?
10. What about our pastor don't you like?