

THE HAND YOU ARE DEALT

Bring as many playing cards as you have people. Using only the 2, 3, 4, and 5 cards, pass them out to your group members. Ask them to think about the future for a minute. What are some of the things you would like to do before you die? According to the number on their card, they should tell you that many of their dreams for the future. For example: I get a 2 card. "I want to travel to Israel. I want to build a greenhouse."

MY TREASURE

Hand out 5-7 pieces of play money, either paper bills or coins, and give each person a fine-tipped marker (especially if you are going to use coins). Ask them: What things in your life would you consider treasures? Perhaps, your job, your home, your extended family, your faith, your kids, etc. Whatever it is, I want you to write those things on this fake money which we are using symbolically for our treasures. After everyone has done this, ask them to share what they wrote on their money.

THREE RULES TO LIVE BY

Ask your group to think about 3 rules that they absolutely live by and refuse to break for anyone, anytime. After you have given them a few minutes, ask them to share their rules. Have a discussion about why it is difficult to come up with three rules to live by or why it was easy to do so.

PERFECTIONISM

Ask: In what area(s) of your life do you strive for perfection?

ALL ABOUT ME

In what ways or in what area of life do you tend to say, "It's all about me."

MOVIE TALK

Ask each person to tell (briefly) about the last play or movie they saw. What do you think was the "agenda"

MAKIN' IT HAPPEN

If you could make one thing happen, what would it be?

QUOTABLE

Take the following quotes and make several copies so as to have enough for each person in your group. Cut them up and hand out one to each person. Have each person read their quote and explain what it means to them:

Outstanding people have one thing in common; an absolute sense of mission. – Zig Ziglar

People with humility don't think less of themselves, they just think of themselves less. – Norman Vincent Peale

Every joy is a self-portrait of the person who did it. – Dennis Waitley

When you stop learning, you stop growing.

Begin to act boldly. The moment one definitely commits oneself, heaven moves in his behalf. – Gerald Ford

I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world. –Mother Teresa

OVERLOAD

Ask your group members to respond to the question, "In what ways do you feel on overload?"

NEW

Bring a "new" item to your group meeting, i.e. new potato, a new penny... Ask your group to talk about one new thing they would like to do this year. You start by holding the "new" item you brought and speak to the topic and then pass it to the next person.

MUSIC FUN

Bring 6-10 different songs. Start each song. Let it play 5 seconds and see who can guess the title of the song. If they don't get it at first, play the song again and let it run 10 seconds. Keep a tally of who guesses correctly. Give a CD as a gift to the person who guessed the most titles. Listen carefully. You'll learn a lot about the people playing!

GUNG HO!

What is one thing you are "Gung Ho!" about and why?

BACK TO SCHOOL

If you had to go back to school and get a degree, what area of study would you choose and why?

SOAP BOX

Share one thing that is happening in the news that just inspires you to get up on your soap box and preach a mini sermon.

LICENSE

If you were to order a personalized license plate what would you have on it? Why?

BACK IN TIME

If you could go back in time and witness one event from the Bible, what event would you choose?

DEATH WISH

If you could know the date and time of your death, would you want to know? Why or why not?

AN EXTRA

If you could be an extra (an actor making a “crowd” appearance) in any Hollywood movie, which movie would you choose and why?

YESTERDAY’S POISON

Share something from your past that you had to leave behind in order to live your very best life right now.

REALITY TV

If you had to choose one of the following TV reality shows to participate in, which one would you choose? Why?

Super Nanny, Extreme Makeover (personal), Trading Spaces, Clean Sweep, Wife Swap, Bachelor(ette), Survivor, The Apprentice

INSPIRATION

Who has inspired you to live your best life? What did they say or do to inspire you?

HELP WANTED

If you had to get a second (or third) job to pay off some unexpected bills where would you go to apply?

FIGHT FOR KIDS

We are in the fight of our lives for our kids. With computers, music, and visual media our kids are exposed to all kinds of beliefs and lifestyles that are not only destructive but deadly. Have your group break up into small groups of three and have them make a list of three ways to fight for our kids’ spiritual, physical, and emotional lives. After five minutes have someone from each group share what they came up with.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Take several “front pages” of your local daily newspaper or national papers. Hand a copy to each person in your group. Ask each member to tell the group which of the headlines bothers them and which ones they would typically ignore.

BEST DAY OF THE WEEK

What is the best day of the week for you? Why?

QUESTIONS

Have each person answer the following questions. They do not need to explain themselves but can if they so choose.

- Would you rather be a preacher or a lawyer?
- Would you rather be a singer or a dancer?
- Would you rather race a car or a bike?
- Would you rather buy a book or a tool?

UNTIL IT HURTS

Mother Teresa once defined love as “giving until it hurts.” Tell of a time when you gave until it hurt.

KIND WORDS

Think of some of the kindest words someone has ever said to you. What were they and why did they mean so much to you at the time?

NEW YEAR HOPES

What is your greatest hope for the coming year?

FIRST THOUGHTS

Have the following words on index cards, one set per card. Hand those cards out as your group arrives. Have your group members look at their card and share what first came to mind when they read the word(s). If someone seems stuck encourage the rest of the group to help.

the obvious, in a million directions, first impressions, the first word, without fear, the last word, the bridge, no such thing, in a thousand pieces, tomorrow, unclear definitions, walking in circles, a journey, without limitations, yesterday

SERMONS

If you could ask your pastor to preach a sermon just for you, what sermon would you like to hear?

SOMETHING NEW

Say to your group: What is something new you have tried in the last month (an experience, a restaurant, or a place)? And, do you tend to avoid new experiences and new ideas or do you embrace them?

FAILURE

Think back to a time when you failed. What was the most important lesson you learned through that experience?

WHAT’S THE BIG IDEA?

Share with the group one of your “biggest ideas” and what ever came of the idea.

ON THE EDGE

What would “living on the edge” look like for you?

SCHOOL DAYS

If you could go back to school for one year, which year would you choose and why?

SUPPER CLUB

If you could invite 3 famous people to dinner who would you invite? Why?

LIFESAVERS

Buy a pack of Life Savers (or 2 if your group is larger) and have each person take one. Ask them to tell the group who has been a life saver in their lives.

MY LIFE

I am happiest when my life is:

Unpredictable - Routine - Challenging - Managed - Carefree

CHARGED

Where do you need to go or what do you need to do in order to recharge your battery?

RECYCLE

What three things in your life would you like to send to the recycle bin?

TEN PENNIES

Hand out ten pennies to everyone. Then go around the circle having each person offer something they have not done that they think everyone else has. Everyone who has done that activity must give the speaker a penny. Put a limit on the number of times around the circle. Once or twice should suffice. The goal is to end up with the most pennies.

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

Have everyone tell three things about themselves. One of the things must be made up and the group must guess which one.

WHO AM I?

Collect facts about members, present them, and have others guess who it is.

PASS THE HAT

Pass around a hat full of random objects. Have each member pick one object and explain how this object is like them in some way.

SIBLING RIVALRY

What was one of the worst things your brother or sister did to you as a child?

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

What happens to you when someone says, "No way! You can't do it. It's impossible!"?

PARTY!

Celebrate together – birthday, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS

What is your favorite movie and why?

Who was your childhood hero?

If money was no object and you could travel anywhere in the world for a week, where would you travel and why?

Who is your number one advisor and why?

People might be surprised to find out that I _____

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

My favorite waste of time is _____

What period of your life would you most like to relive?

My number two career choice would be _____?

As a high school student what did you do in your spare time? (Sports, student government, band, boy scouts, etc.)

Pass around a light source – a light bulb, flash light, or candle – and ask the group what has been one of the most enlightening pieces of advice they have ever received.

Have everyone roll a pair of dice. Have them describe something in their life that number represents. (3 too many hours of work/ 1 black poodle)