



THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS

HOW DO I BEGIN TO GATHER PEOPLE?

If you commit to connecting individuals in your context into a Community, you inevitably need to answer the question “how do we get them moving in the right direction?”

Although it usually takes 18 months to 2 years for a healthy Community to emerge from a group of individuals, we have found that the first four weeks of the Community is imperative to set the tempo for the long term future. These four weeks are often when group participants will decide if they are going to stick with the Community.

For those who do want to stick, we don't want to overload a group with too many assignments – we've found they “need room to breathe”. At the same time, the first few gatherings will often set the rhythms and culture of a community, so we want to template that time as well as we can. Why is culture so important? Early on in the life of a newly-formed Community, often the most difficult challenge is establishing regular rhythms that go beyond just a once a week meeting. Many of the people who are starting out in these communities tend to approach life together as consumers, and also have a preconceived idea of what Community practices should look like. Typically, Community consists of a once per week event where often you gather to study the bible together. But a microchurch Community is so much more than that!

Rather than provide a curriculum or prescription, we've found it's best to accomplish four things over those four weeks:

1. Read through the Book of John or Acts together and discuss it.
2. Share a meal twice (possibly in your home) to share your stories with one another.
3. Gather somewhere not in a home for fun, and also to continue sharing your stories (ideas below).
4. Meet with your coach to discuss your group's dynamics and game plan for how to process a preferred future in a collaborative manner with your Community.

We leave the planning and execution of these up to the newly minted leader in order to create ownership for the leader and buy-in from those in the group.

Sharing A Meal Ideas

People can naturally bond over food. Leveraging that bond forms easy pathways to new connections. The goal here is to intentionally create environments that feel like family. Children are included as a part of the community building process. This is also a great avenue to invite new people (friends, neighbors, coworkers) to explore your Community.

Locations:

Here are a few location ideas that don't require a large kitchen or living room to accommodate.

- Park Pavilion
- Pub
- Backyard / Driveway
- Restaurant private room
- Food Court

Menu Suggestions:

Here are a few fun menu suggestions to help foster a community building environment. If you think of other ideas, be sure to let us know!

- Grilling Out
- Potato Bar
- Walking Tacos
- Wine & Cheese
- Breakfast for Dinner
- Appetizers as Entrees
- Bring food that reminds you of your childhood
- Bring food that represent your hometown

Get To Know You Questions

Here is a sampling of our favorite questions to catalyze new conversations! One fun way to utilize this list is to ask people to pick or draw a number and then ask them the corresponding question.

1. Which three words would you use to describe yourself?
2. What would you like to be famous for?
3. What is your favorite book, TV show and movie?
4. Describe the best job you could ever have.
5. Who would you like to have as a neighbor?
6. Where do you think you'll live when you're finally all "grown up"?
7. What's the one city that you've never been to that you'd really love to visit?
8. What's your favorite family tradition?
9. What makes you laugh the most?
10. What special talent would you like to have?
11. What's the most important quality you look for in a new friend?
12. What is your favorite part of the day and why?
13. What are you looking forward to in the future?
14. What's your earliest memory?
15. What's your favorite thing about summertime?
16. What's your most prized possession?
17. If you could devote one hour a day to learning whatever you wanted, what would it be?
18. What are 3 fun things to do near your home?
19. What's your favorite subject in school and why?

20. What's your favorite song and why is it your favorite?
21. What is one of your top pet peeves?
22. What is one thing that you regret buying?
23. What is one of your favorite smells?
24. What is your "spirit animal"?
25. What have you always kind of been afraid of?
26. What is one comfort you would want on a deserted island?
27. What was the first CD you ever owned?
28. What did you dream of becoming as a kid?
29. What are three words that would describe you in high school?
30. If they wrote a book about your life, what would the title be?
31. What is your favorite aisle in the grocery store?
32. If they made a movie about your life, what actor would you?
33. If you could invent a machine to do anything, what would your invention do?
34. What movie could you watch anytime any day?
35. "Money can't buy happiness," but it can buy you a what?
36. If a song played every time you walked into a room, what it would be?
37. If you got a tattoo on your face, what it would be?
38. In your humble opinion what is the all-time best animated movie?
39. If you could be best friends with a celebrity, who would it be?
40. What do most people not "get" about you?