

COMMUNITY (LARGE GROUP)

Lesson 1: What/Who is my community?

Objective: Introduce the topic of community and get students getting to see the big picture of where they live.



TIME: 90 minutes

ICEBREAKER: Which is better?

Time: 8-10 Minutes

Supplies: come up with a list of 10-15 local restaurants or ice cream shops from the town/city you are in.

Instructions: have everyone stand in the middle of the room and explain that you will list a pair of restaurants and if they like the first one they will run to the left side of the room and if they like the second they will run to the right. Then start down the list by stating 'which is best' or 'who makes it better?' After the room splits, take turns walking to each side and interviewing a person on why their choice is best. Then go to the other. This is supposed to get them excited, bantering, laughing, etc.

Ideas:

- burger restaurants (McDonalds vs Red Robin)
- pizza (Dominos vs Little Cesar)
- Ice cream (Baskin Robbins or DQ)
- Breakfast food (Denny's or Shari's)
- Best french fries

Tips & Tricks: if you have the budget for it, buy a few small gift cards to a few of the local restaurants as prizes for the people who fought the hardest to prove their place was best! McDonalds is great, but supporting local small businesses or businesses owned by people of color is better!

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Time: 10-15 Minutes

Facilitator explains that we all live in the community (neighborhood/city) of.... So let's talk about it. Invite students to openly discuss what they think about the questions. Allow the discussion to build and ask for

feedback from multiple different people. You can put the questions on a powerpoint too if you have time to prepare. The visual helps students who do better processing with visual aids.

What does the term community mean?

Definitions:

A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.

"the scientific community"

2. A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

"the sense of community that organized religion can provide"

Why do we live in and need communities?

How would you describe the community that we live in?

What are some of the positive and negative things that it is known for?

How would you describe the community we have at City Life?

What are some of the positive and negative things that we are known for?

What are some of the things that you would like to see change in our community?

How do you see yourself being a part of this community (the city or City Life)?

TESTIMONY:

Time: 20-30 Minutes

Invite a leader or person of faith from your community to come and share their personal testimony of faith and how their experience in your community has gone. This could be a pastor,

a single mom, a community leader, a local business owner, etc. Have share the following:

Who are they and what do they do?

How they came to faith?

How they are involved in the community you live in and why?

What do they hope to see change in the community?

What do they love about the community?



QUESTIONS:

Invite the students and leaders to ask the guest questions about their life, work, faith, etc.

PRAY:

Invite a student or leader (or a group of them) to come and pray over the guest! Thank them for coming and sharing.

REFLECTION:

Invite the students to share 1 thing they learned or that stood out to them from the talk tonight. If the group is small, go around the room, but if it is large, have only 3-5 share!