

Getting To Know You “Speed Dating Style” Mixer Instructions

1. Organize the room so there are six different tables or groups of chairs, which are clearly marked in some way so people can identify them. Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, etc. Six Groups.
2. Provide everyone with a printed slip of paper with six numbers on it. The organizer will need to cut these apart in advance. (This page should accompany these instructions.) There are 24 different rows for 24 people. If you have more people, you can either have them buddy up or cut out additional copies of the numbers page and people will move together to different groups. The idea here is that (for a total group size of 24) people travel to each table and meet/interact with different people each rotation.
3. Tell participants the instructions: WE ARE GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN A JIGSAW MIXER ACTIVITY, IN WHICH YOU WILL ROTATE TO DIFFERENT GROUP AREAS. EACH ROTATION YOU WILL GO (OR STAY) IN THE GROUP AREA INDICATED ON YOUR SLIP OF PAPER. AFTER YOU GET TO YOUR GROUP AREA, I WILL READ A QUESTION. EACH PERSON SHOULD TAKE ABOUT A MINUTE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION WITH OTHERS IN THE GROUP. EACH ROTATION WILL LAST FOUR MINUTES, THEN WE WILL CHANGE TO THE NEXT ROTATION.
4. Tell participants to move to their first group location.

Here are suggested questions for each rotation. Feel free to modify these as needed to fit the group. It is good to start with lighter rather than deep questions. Remember to ask open ended questions which require elaboration and invite storytelling.

Rotation 1: Tell a short story about something funny you remember from growing up.

Rotation 2: What are your top life priorities right now, and why are they so important to you?

Rotation 3: What activities do you love in which you feel most “centered” in doing? Tell about these activities.

Rotation 4: What time of your life have you felt most close to God, and why do you think you felt that way then?

Rotation 5: What are some of the most important life lessons you learned from your parents or grandparents, and how do you want to share those with others in your life today?

Rotation 6: What groups or activities at our church have helped you feel most connected to God and to the church body, and how could those experiences be extended to more people in the upcoming year?

The activity facilitator should use a stopwatch and give each group exactly four minutes to discuss each rotation question. At the end of four minutes, announce “SWITCH TO YOUR NEXT ROTATION” and give participants 60 seconds to change groups. If all six rotations are used, this activity should take a total of 30 minutes to complete.