

Taken from Sharon's book:  
*[Building an Effective Women's Ministry](#)*

## 65 Icebreaker Ideas for Small Groups

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An icebreaker is simply a means of getting to know one another that encourages an atmosphere of warmth, acceptance, and sharing. Whether you are in a small group Bible study, at a Girl's Night Out with friends, or a wedding or baby shower, here are some great ideas to break the ice.

### **Order Variations**

1. Simply go around the circle. Each one shares.
2. Place number on nametags. Call out a number to designate who is the next to share.
3. Designate the first to share. She in turn chooses someone who is wearing the same color she is wearing. Continue in the same manner until all have shared.
4. Give everyone a piece of paper. Each lady writes her name on the paper. The names are placed in a basket. Designate the first to share. She then reaches into the basket, choosing a piece of paper and reads the name of the next lady to share.
5. Share in the order of closest birthdays already celebrated and go backwards until everyone has shared.
6. Share in the order of number of siblings.
7. For a change, which will allow ladies to spend more time talking and growing deeper, divide the group into smaller groups using one of the following:
  - long haired blondes, short haired blondes, long haired brunettes, short haired brunettes, gray, and red heads.
  - divide according to children's stages: infants, toddlers, preschoolers, elementary, middle school, high school, college, grown
  - painted fingernails by different shades including those unpainted
  - one ring, two rings, three rings, more
  - eye color: brown, blue, green

### **Seasonal Icebreakers:**

8. Collect cards that relate to the season: Christmas, Valentines, and Easter. You will need cards that are different. Cut the card into four or five pieces using curved lines, creating a puzzle. Mix the pieces up. As each one arrives give her a piece telling her she is to find the other three to four pieces she needs to put her card back together. Once each lady has found the other pieces to her card she has reached the desired goal.
9. Share a favorite memory or tradition related to the season.
10. Ask a trivia question. The one who answers asks the next trivia question.
11. Create an acrostic using a seasonal word and items that can be found in the room where ladies are gathered. Example using the word FEAST: Fireplace, Entry table, Apple, Stool, Tea cup.
12. Give each lady a piece of tissue paper. Tell her to hold it behind her back. Give instructions telling the ladies they are in a contest to see who can come the closest to tearing their tissue paper into one of the following: the shape of a heart, a Christmas tree, snowflake, angel, Easter bunny, lamb, cross, etc.
13. Play charades using seasonal songs or sayings.

### **Childhood Icebreaker Questions**

14. Where were you born?
15. How many brothers and sisters did you have?
16. How old were you when you learned to ride a bike?
17. What was your favorite room in the house as a child?
18. What was your mother's/father's occupation?
19. What was your favorite subject in school?
20. What is your favorite childhood memory?
21. How did your family celebrate Christmas and/or Thanksgiving?
22. What was one of your favorite holiday traditions?
23. Who was your first boyfriend?

### **Family Icebreaker - Fill in the Blanks**

24. I was initially attracted to my husband because...
25. I chose the name, \_\_\_\_\_, for my first born because...
26. The trait I most admire in my mother, father, sister, brother is...
27. Our favorite family pastime is...
28. Our favorite place in the house to hang out is...
29. My last child was born in (name of town) at (name the hospital).

30. My most obvious physical trait is my\_\_\_\_. I inherited it from my\_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Spiritual Icebreaker - Complete the Sentences**

31. My first memory of hearing about God is...
32. The person who introduced me to Jesus Christ is...
33. The first church I ever attended was...
34. The Bible verse that most speaks to me is...
35. My favorite Bible story is...
36. My first Bible was...
37. When did God first become real to you?

#### **Personal Icebreaker - Get to Know You's**

38. Before I arrived here today, I had to...
39. My favorite toy when I was a child was a...
40. Ten years ago, I spent most of my time doing...
41. My name is (Van). V stands for VICTORIOUS. Each lady tells what the first letter of her name stands for.
42. If I could do or be anything at all, I would...
43. As a child my favorite daydream was...
44. My favorite thing to do these days is...
45. When did you pierce your ears? How? Why haven't you pierced yours?
46. I volunteer in the community by...
47. Name everything in your purse. The lady who has the most stuff listed, dumps her purse and tells all!
48. What is one thing you are good at doing?
49. Who was the most influential person in your life?
50. If you could be a fictitious person in a book or movie, who would you be and why?
51. If money were no object and you knew you could not fail, what would you try to accomplish over the next five years?

#### **Relational Fun and Games**

52. As ladies arrive put them together in groups of two or three. Either group them together as they come through the door or assign numbers or match nametags. Have them work together doing one of the following:
53. Locate 26 items in the room, each starting with a different letter of the alphabet.

54. Give a storage bag filled with Legos and see what creation flows from the individual groups. Tell them to name their creation.
55. Find out three things about one another that you each have in common.
56. Make a commitment and a plan to get together some time within the next two weeks.
57. Choose a volunteer project of a couple of hours you can work on together.

#### **More Get to Know You Ideas**

- 58. Two Truths and a Lie:** Get each person to tell two true facts and one falsehood about themselves. Then let the other's guess which one is not true.
- 59. Today's Special Guest:** Ask each team member to pull out a picture from her wallet and tell about the person.
- 60. Testimony Time:** Have various team members share her testimony. Never call on someone to do that on the spur of the moment. Ask them ahead of time or have them sign up in advance.
- 61. Pet Peeves:** Ask everyone to share their "pet peeves." Complete the following sentence: It really bothers me when someone.....
- 62. To Tell the Truth:** The leader collects one fact about each member and types up a list of facts. These are facts the person has shared freely and does not mind the others knowing. Pass the sheet out and try to guess which fact goes with which person.
- 63. Timeline Trail:** Have each person draw a timeline of their spiritual life and mark the high and low points. Start at age 1 and go to the present. (This is a wonderful exercise for those who are nervous about sharing their testimony. By explaining their time line, they will be sharing their testimony. It will also make some realize that they have never asked Jesus to be their Savior.)
- 64. Self Portrait:** Give everyone a large sheet of paper and a few crayons. Have each member draw a self-portrait without letting the others in the group see. Then have the group leader collect the pictures and hold them up one at a time. See if the group members can match the drawings with the correct person. When the person is identified, she tells a bit about herself.
- 65. M & M:** Place a bowl of M&Ms on a table and ask each person to take 4-5. Then have them share the following for each color selected.
  - a. Brown – Share about the house you grew up in.
  - b. Yellow – Share about your favorite summer vacation
  - c. Blue – Share about your first airplane ride.
  - d. Green – Share about your first date.
  - e. Red – Share about your first ticket for breaking the law.
  - f. Orange – Wild card. Share any of the above.