

Games and Icebreakers

**Submitted to The CLM Hen House
(Our Message Board for www.juliabettencourt.com)**

These are not in any particular order.

Mother/Daughter Icebreaker

A fun ice breaker/game is to ask the daughters a list of questions. (Beforehand if possible) Then read the answers out loud at the tea. Some of these questions would be:

1. How tall is your mother?
2. What's her favorite color/flower/food/restaurant/store/movie/activity/etc.
3. What do like best about your mother?

This is hilarious if the daughters are still children. We've had kids answer that their mother is 9 feet tall and her favorite place to shop is the toy store and her favorite restaurant is McDonalds. You get the idea. I personally like this one because we can learn little tidbits about each other and have fun at the same time.

Name That Tea

Have several types of tea. The only thing that identifies them for the ladies is a number. Have a slip of paper for each of them to write down the names of each numbered tea bag. You can put a few tea bags of one kind into a bowl (having a bowl for each of the kinds that they are to identify). You can have these located at a table somewhere in the room or pass the bowls around to each table. Do not mix the different teas together as the scents will mix together and they will all smell the same. A prize for the mother/daughter team that guesses the most teas correctly.

Tea Bag Toss

Like an egg toss. Since you are using hats, maybe they can catch them in their hats. It sounds easy, but the farther you get apart the harder they are to toss accurately. Advantage: no one messes up their pretty clothes.

Musical Bags Icebreaker

Materials: Paper sacks, various fun items to wear. For example: a bright feather boa, a funny pair of glasses, a funny hat, etc. Put one item in each paper bag and seal it shut.

For each table or small group of ladies, start with one or more sealed paper

sacks with one item in it. Start playing some music. During this time the ladies pass the bags around the table or their group. When the music stops, the person holding the bag has to open it and put on what is in the bag. All the ladies who end up with the bag have to put the item on, go to the stage to "model" it, and have a group picture taken.

Another variation is to seal a corsage in each bag, and announce from the stage that each bag contains "bloomers," and the one holding the bag when the music stops will be required to wear them for the rest of the evening. Many women will think there is a rather large pair of underwear in the bag and will do anything not to be holding it when the music stops. Very fun!

Open the Door

Sometimes it can be hard to "get the ball rolling" in a small group at a retreat or event where women do not know each other well. This is a great way to encourage sharing.

With everyone sitting around a table or in a circle, pass a door knob around to each person giving them each a chance to answer a question. Begin with an opening question that invites people to share about themselves. Here are some ideas:

I attend church at...

My favorite color is...

My favorite food is...

My earliest childhood memory is...

Go around the group a couple of times with the general questions and then ask each woman to answer the question: "What doors has God opened for me?" (Variation: What doors have I closed on God?, What doors has God reopened in my life?)

Balloon Couture

Objectives: To see which team can attach the most balloons to one woman on their team - the "model."

Materials: At least 40 balloons and a roll of scotch tape per team.

Procedure: Divide the group into teams. Each team must blow up their balloons and then proceed to see which team can attach the most balloons to their "model" in a ten minute time period. Balloons can be stuffed under clothing or body parts or taped to the "model".

When the ten minutes are up each model must walk to the front of the

group trying not to lose any balloons. The team whose "model" has most balloons wins.

Crazy Chairs

Objectives: An active ice breaker to get people warmed up and to know each other.

Materials: Circle of chairs

Procedure: Form a circle of chairs with someone seated in each chair and one person standing in the middle. The person in the middle says something about themselves. For example I play the flute. Everyone who plays the flute gets up and quickly trades chairs. One person will be left standing and that person is then in the middle and says something about herself.

It's a fun game as you never know what the statement will be or who will be getting up.

Guess Whose Pajamas

Objectives: To try and guess whose pajamas are whose.

Materials: Brown paper grocery bags and a magic marker.

Procedure: We had tons of fun with this! We met in a home for a Sunday School get together for our ladies. Each lady was told to bring whatever she sleeps in each night in a brown paper grocery bag so that you cannot see it. As the lady entered the door we had someone there to greet and number their bag. Those who were helping to set-up started numbering their bags as bag #1 and so on, till the first guest arrived. When she came in we closed the bag and put the next number on her bag with a big black magic marker. When every had arrived, we ate and settled around the living room.

To start the game, we gave each lady a pencil and a piece of paper and had them number however many bags we had. Then we had our host open bag number #1 and hold up the pajamas from the bag, then this is where the fun began...everybody had to guess who they thought it belonged to. After all bags had been opened we started over again with bag #1 and that person had to confess who they were. Whoever had the most correct guesses on.

This was so much fun, and you would not believe what these girls came

with. It helped us laugh and get to know each other better.

Scripture Balloons

One game I did with our ladies: I had 1 inflated balloon for each participant. I tied about 2 feet of string to each balloon. Inside each was a Scripture promise written on a piece of paper and folded. Each lady tied their balloon to one of their ankles. On "GO", they would try to pop another's balloon while trying to keep theirs from being popped. If theirs was popped they would pick up their promise and sit down. The last one to still have their balloon is the winner. Then I had all the ladies read their promise aloud. I then shared with them how Satan tries to pop our balloons and make us forget the promises of God, but the promises are there even when our "balloon gets popped". Need lots of room for this one, but it is so much fun!

Fruit Basket Turnover

Everyone sits in a circle with one person sitting on a chair in the middle. Each person is given a different fruit name. The person in the middle names off a fruit. The fruit that was named has to jump up and change seats while the person in the middle tries to find a seat. The person left standing is the next one to call out fruits. Instead of naming a bunch of fruits, at any time, the person in the middle can say, "Fruit Basket Turn-over" and every one has to get up and change seats. It is a fast paced game and gets a lot of laughs.

Fruit Salad

Group members receive individual slips of paper, and they are asked, 'If we were making a fruit salad, what part would you be: apple, grape, other fruit, syrup, bowl; and why?' They must write their responses, and put their name on the paper, handing it back to the leader. The group then guesses who identified themselves as what, based on the written description.

Peel an Apple

Each person receives an apple and a paring knife, the person with the longest piece of "skin" wins.

Questions

Objectives: To help ladies meet new people by talking to EVERYONE at an event, not just the people they already know.

Materials: Questions, paper, pens, basket

Procedure: Prior to your event, write down many different questions on small

sheets of paper. The questions should be thought-provoking and/or fun. We used questions such as "When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?" "If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?" "What part of your daily routine do you enjoy most?" etc. Be creative, and try to have as many different questions as possible. It's okay to double up on a few if necessary.

Fold up the questions and put them in a basket. As the ladies arrive, ask the ladies to draw a question from the basket. Explain that the object is for them to ask that question to as many people as possible. Instruct them to introduce themselves and write down the names and a brief version of the answer for everyone they talk to. We had about 30 ladies at our event and devoted about a half-hour for the ladies to mingle and ask their questions.

When you are ready to wrap up, have everyone take a seat. Go around the room and ask each lady to state their name, their question, and share either a common theme to the answers or a particularly unique answer.

Mirror Icebreaker

You could do the icebreaker thing where you wrap up a box like a present. You place a mirror in the bottom of the box. The box has to have a lid on the top that you can wrap up separate than the box. Put a large bow on top of it. (I always use a shoebox--Works well)

As your ladies or arrive. Tell them that you have something very special in the box and ask them if they would like to see what it is. We all are curious so everyone always wants to see. Tell them it's something unique that God gave as a special gift to the world. I've done this with kids sometimes, and I always tell them it's kind of like a magic box because when they look inside they'll see something that no one else will see when they peek inside. The gift God made to the world is just so unique--it's one of a kind. Lift the lid for each lady to peek inside. Tell them not to tell anyone what they saw in the box so that no one is expecting a mirror to be there.

"Most Embarrassing Moment"

Make sure all the ladies had nametags on. Each gets an index card & had to write down a description of their most embarrassing moment. All of the cards were put into a private box. Then, the game leader read them one by one. There were 20 women present, so we each had a piece of paper numbered from 1-20 to write down who we thought the most embarrassing moment belonged to. At the end, the game leader re-read bits of the embarrassing moments & the person to whom the moment belonged had to stand up. The one with the most correct won.

Icebreaker: Verse Match

A fun and challenging way to encourage women to mingle at an event. How well do we know the Word of God? This is a simple way to "mix" women up before an event.

What you need: Index cards

Depending on the size of your group you can do this several ways, but the basic idea is to take a scripture verse and write it out on several cards. If your group is very large, you can put one or two words on eight cards to fill a table. If you have a smaller group, divide the verse in half to match up pairs. Whatever works for you!

Write out the verses on index cards ahead of time and put them on the chairs or table where your group will meet.

When they arrive have them pick up the word(s) and find the partner(s) that complete the bible verse. Each group/pair can read their verse to "be sure" that all the verses are indeed correct! To make the game more challenging you can set a time limit.

Balloon Pop - Icebreaker

One game we did which was hilarious was to see who had the most unique thing in her pocketbook. You wouldn't believe some of the things they had in their purses! One lady had a pair of dentures she had found in a restaurant bathroom...yuck!

Another game we played was fun, too. The game leader had a list of items. We split the women into 2 teams. The leader would call out the item & the first person to find it in and run it up to the leader would get points for her team. Some of the items were a pair of socks (which they took off their feet), sunglasses, a purple ink pen, checks with a cartoon character on them, an umbrella...it was lots of fun.

Timed Alphabet Game

Objectives

The objective of this game is for each team to find as many words as they can in about 5 minutes. The team with the most words at the end of 5 minutes is the winner. Where do the letters come from to form the words??? ... A Box of Alphabets cereal!

Materials

Two Teams of Women, Two Tables, Two Boxes of Alphabet cereal.

Procedure

Each team opens their box of alphabets cereal onto their table. Each team

member starts to pick through the letters to form words. You'll hear one women say ... "Anybody got an 'E'". You can give bonus points to the team with words that are longer the 5 letters. Our women's group played this game with the residents of a Women's Shelter and we had a great time. At the end of the game one person from each team to go to the opposers table to check to make sure that the other team actually did form actual words.

Making Time

Objectives

Our devotion was on time and how God already has it planned out ie, Eccl. 3. This was used to show the women how little time it took to do something special for one another.

Materials

a small vase or container; 2-3 bouquets of artificial flowers, cut separately off the main stem; foam to hold flowers in place depending on container; watch with second hand; 'WINNER' ribbon I made mine from construction paper

Procedure

Before the meeting, place the individual flowers around the room, hiding or just laying around. Tape the winner ribbon under a chair of random choice. After the devotion on time, tell the women they have 2 minutes to gather all the flowers and place in container setting on the table. Once the flowers are arranged and the flowerpot made, then tell them under one of the chairs is a winner ribbon. The one with the ribbon wins the flowerpot. The women loved it and the flowerpot was lovely. While the ladies were getting the flowers my helper made a circle with the chairs and we used them as a closing prayer circle. I also cut the stems before hand different lengths to give a better effect.

Bag Skit

Objectives: To get the people to work as a group

Materials: Bags filled with random objects...usually three or more objects

Procedure : Break the group into smaller groups. Usually three to four per group. Hand each group a bag filled with objects and give them a certain time limit. Within this time they are to come up with a skit using only the objects in the bag. After the time limit is up each group presents their skit.

Thanksgiving

Have the ladies pick 3 or 4 (or ever how many you'd like) and then go around the group and have each lady name things that they are thankful for which starts with the letters that they chose.

Cherries!

Objective: Eat a cherry from a bowl filled with whipped cream.

Categories:

Adults, Teens, Couples, and Singles

Game type:

Active. A lot of movement may be required.

Players:

4 or more players

Needed: Bowls Maraschino cherries Canned whipped cream

Rules: Ask who at the party likes cherries. When you have several volunteers, place in front of each of them a maraschino cherry in a bowl. Explain that this will be a race to see who can eat their cherry first. They cannot use their hands. Just as they think this will be an easy game, you go around with a can of whipped cream and fill each bowl. Now you have a fun game. The winner is the first to find and eat the cherry. Have a camera handy!

Version of Beat the Clock

We had two ladies face off in a laundry basket challenge. We had two loads of unfolded clothes that they had to fold. We timed it. It was a hoot. Took only 45 seconds

Name (Find) that Hymn

Something fun we did one year is handed out index cards with church song titles on them. Each person had to walk around the room and sing or hum their song and find the person that was singing the same song as them. Then find out three facts about that person. We did not have quite as many people as you but you could make about 4-5 of the same song so the groups would be bigger. It was really fun and different from the typical ice breaker game we usually had

Pass and Chew

An icebreaker I've done before which could be adapted to this theme....each group gets a pair of garden gloves... they have to open a package of gum with the gloves on, open a piece and eat it before passing the gum and gloves on to the next person. It is not very easy to do and it is a lot of fun. You could use Juicy Fruit or Fruit Stripes gum.

Prayer Calendar

For our next event I am making a Prayer Calendar. Our event is on April 1 so I am using an April calendar. On each day of the month I am putting a description that would fit a lady - a teacher, a student, a grandmother, someone born outside

USA, someone born in the same state as you....you get the idea.

Each lady will be given a calendar and will need to get a signature from a lady that meets the description. The idea is that everyone should meet at least 30 other ladies and find out something about them and then pray for them on the appropriate day.

Luau Games

Word Game- I found 20 Hawaiian words with their meanings through an Internet search. I listed the Hawaiian words from 1-20. Beside each I put 3 English words & they had to circle, which they thought meant the same thing. They really had fun with that!

Limbo Contest - We had a limbo contest, which, much to my surprise, everyone participated! I really only expected the younger gals to join in, but the winner was a 62-year-old! We also had a hula-hoop contest.

Fruit of the Spirit

Use Jelly Belly Fruit bowl Jelly Beans (or other favorite fruit flavored candy). I used this at my Council meeting and it was a hit. (I also corresponded the natural fruit with the spiritual fruit. See below.) Have each person choose their favorite "fruit" and then finish the statement Red (Cherry, because it has pits) I really loose my SELF-CONTROL when my child _____. Yellow (Lemon represents a zest for life) I find my greatest JOY in mothering to be _____. Lt. Green (Lime, mixes well with a lot of things like a peaceful spirit) The thing that brings the greatest PEACE in my life is _____. Dr. Green (Green Apple, natural and serene color, even and balanced like patience) I loose my PATIENCE the easiest when _____. White (Coconut, got milk? A little kindness goes a long way.) I try to teach KINDNESS to my children by _____. Blue (Blueberry, delicate skin, sweet & gentle) I desire to be a GENTLE mother because _____. Orange (Oranges, layers & sections to represent all areas woman, wife, mothers, daughter, friend) MOPS has been FAITHFUL to help me to _____. Yellow Speckled (Peach, warm/fuzzy like goodness) I believe the GOODNESS of mothering is displayed by _____.

BABY SHOWER (BRIDAL)

Was at a shower and they had little plastic babies frozen into ice cubes in a little plastic cup. Each person got one and had to be the first to have their "water break". Which meant the first melted ice cube won the game. Rules: You could

do anything to get your ice to melt EXCEPT you could not touch the ice. You could touch the cup, breath on it etc. (I put mine into my hot coffee which melted the ice, I then scooped the baby out, and alas, I won the game! It was defiantly a different one that I had never seen before. Could have as many winners as you want.

At a bridal shower I was at recently, the hostess did the "old game" of having 2 girls walk around showing several people kitchen items on a tray that we thought we were supposed to look at and then write down what we could remember when the trays were taken away and she gave the signal -- but she put a twist in it and asked us to write down everything we could remember about the two girls who carried the trays! This could easily be adapted for a baby shower by putting baby supplies on the tray.

This same hostess made up something like a bingo card (only she stressed it was not bingo or lotto) with different items on it that the recipient might receive at a shower. There were, I think, five items in across and five items down, and every time the honoree opened a gift we circled whatever it was on our cards. The first person to get 5 in a row in any direction got a prize. The hostess tried to make every card different so nobody would "tie". She said she did it partially to keep the attention on the honoree instead of having people break off into little conversational groups during the gift opening.

GUESS THE CHRISTMAS CAROL (Answers below; don't peek yet!)

1. Approach everyone who is steadfast.
2. Ecstasy toward the orb.
3. Listen, the foretelling spirits harmonize.
4. Hey, minuscule urban area south of Jerusalem.
5. Quiescent nocturnal period.
6. The autocratic troika originating near the ascent of Apollo.
7. The primary carol.
8. Embellish the corridors.
9. I'm fantasizing concerning a blanched Yuletide.
10. I observed my maternal parent osculating with a corpulent, unshaven male in crimson disguise.
11. During the time ovine caretakers supervised their charges.
12. Virtuous royal philanthropist.
13. The thing manifested itself at the onset of a transparent day.
14. What offspring abides thus?
15. Removed in a bovine feeding trough.
16. Valentino, the roseate proboscis wapiti.
17. The slight percussionist lad.
18. Father Christmas approaches the metropolis.
19. Seraphim we aurally detected in the stratosphere.
20. The Creator reassures you, lively fellows.

Answers:

1. O Come, All Ye Faithful
2. Joy to the World
3. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
4. O Little Town of Bethlehem
5. Silent Night
6. We Three Kings of Orient Are
7. The First Noel
8. Deck the Halls
9. White Christmas
10. I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
11. While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night
12. Good King Wenceslaus
13. It came upon the Midnight Clear
14. What Child Is This?
15. Away in a Manger
16. Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer
17. Little Drummer Boy
18. Santa Claus Is Coming to Town
19. Angels We Have Heard on High
20. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Christmas - Find Out Who Game

The Goal is to Find out who has done everything on the list First... or just use it as an icebreaker!

Guest's Name _____

1. Never has had a "White Christmas" _____
2. Has celebrated Christmas in another country _____
3. Returned a gift s/he received last Christmas _____
4. Has seen a real, live reindeer _____
5. Believed in Santa Claus until s/he was 10 years old) _____
6. Loves the Christmas song "What child is this?" _____
7. Has been to
Bethlehem _____
8. Went Christmas caroling last year _____
9. Has peeked at a present before Christmas _____
10. Still gets his/her own stocking filled each year _____
11. Has all his/her Christmas shopping done _____
12. Hasn't done any of his/her Christmas shopping yet _____
13. Has never seen "It's a Wonderful Life" _____
14. Has seen "It's a Wonderful Life" too many times _____
15. Has "regifted" a Christmas present _____
16. Knows all the reindeers names _____

17. Has never made snowman _____
18. Knows what s/he is getting for Christmas this year _____
19. Has made "figgy pudding" at least once _____
20. Doesn't like eggnog _____

It's a race to be the first person to fill in the blanks with someone who fits the description!!

Pass the Gift Game Poem

Materials: One wrapped gift (does not need to be expensive, a dollar store item is fine); and poem below.

Procedure: Read the poem below to pass the gift around and see who ends up with it!

1. Take this gift and with out a sigh look around, then give to a woman with eyes of brown.
2. Yes, you are the lucky one for a moment, but let us all share in the fun! Please look around with eyes discreet, and give it to the one with the smallest feet.
3. Your feet are tiny and very small, now hand the gift to someone tall.
4. Please take your time and don't be harried. Give it to the one who is longest married.
5. You must be proud of your life, now please pass this to the newest wife.

6. Of this parcel you are bereft, give it to the one on your left.
7. The largest earrings we are looking for now, if you are wearing them, step up and bow.
8. Now to the person with button, big, small, any kind... the most you can find, gets the gift this time.
9. Now don't get cross and please don't fight, but pass it to the person third on your right.
10. We should stop soon don't you agree, The gift is yours to keep with glee!
If you would like, you can add this last "twist"...
11. Inside you'll see another gift...to continue the game. Pass it to your neighbor on the left, she'll be glad she came!

A Versatile Game

A fun game we played at a couple of our brunches over the years: Write the names of Christmas characters on individual slips of paper, e.g. Santa, Rudolph, Mary, Joseph, etc. Pin one on the BACK of each gal as they arrive. Then as they mingle over punch or hot cider they must ask questions of others to learn their identity. The trick is though, that these questions must have a yes or no answer only! Like, "Am I a person?" or "Am I an animal?" Once they have solved their identity they can take their slip of paper off. You can make the characters as easy or difficult as you like.

White Elephant

Everyone takes a number and #1 goes first and picks a gift...#2 then can steal from number 1 or pick a new gift. #3 can steal from those open already or get a new one from the pile, etc. The highest numbers are best because you can steal from anyone who has opened already or get one remaining from the pile. If you steal, the person who lost theirs opens up a new one.

Play a game and let those winning first get first pick from the pile....you could do the name game where you have the name of a person, place or thing on a sticker on the back of their shirt. They have to ask yes or no answer questions to find out what or who they are. Like "am I human?" "am I soft?" "do I have hair?", "do I breath?" and others they mingle with have to answer with yes or no. Once you have guessed what's on your back you can go to the present table and pick a wrapped or unwrapped gift.

You can go with the theme. For example for Christmas I used names like Star of Bethlehem, Frosty, baby Jesus, Mary, snowflake, reindeer, gift, manger, etc.