

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

by Patrick M. Mulcahy

PURPOSE

To help group members recognize other members' uniqueness and to appreciate this diversity.

PREPARATION

Obtain one large sheet of posterboard. Gather Bibles, crayons or felt-tip markers, 3 × 5 cards, paper and pencils for all.

If you have a small group, work through the following activities as a whole group. If your group is larger, divide into smaller teams of five or six in each, and have the participants work through different activities at the same time. (If you use this several-activities-at-one-time approach, enlist additional help to introduce and organize the activities.)

OPENING

On a table, place a sheet of blank posterboard and various colored crayons or markers. As group members arrive, have them trace their hands with the color that best represents how they are feeling and then write their first name in the middle of the hand outline. At the top of the posterboard write "Reach Out." Explain we can only get to know others by reaching out. Save the poster for future sessions as a reminder to the youth to "reach out."

Have everyone think of a self-descriptive word. The word's first

letter must also be the first letter of the group member's first name. For example, John might think he is jolly, Bill might think he is best, Sarah might think she is super, and so on. Then, with the group sitting in a circle, one person says his or her name and then the descriptive word, the next person repeats the first person's information and then adds his or her own name and descriptive word, and so on. For example, John could begin by saying, "John, jolly." Bill would continue by saying, "John, jolly; Bill, best." Sarah would then say, "John, jolly; Bill, best; Sarah, super," and so on.

THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

Have the group read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27. Divide into small groups of threes or fours. Have half the groups study verses 14-19 and the other groups study verses 20-27. Instruct the youth to list passages that pertain to the youth group and to potential roles of individual members. Call the members together to report the groups' findings. Discuss how the youth group can be like the group described in the passage—especially in verses 25 and 26.

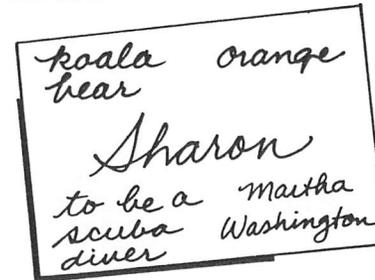
On 3 × 5 cards, group members should write their names and the following information:

- In the top left corner, an

animal that describes them.

- In the top right corner, a fruit or vegetable they would like to be.
- In the lower left corner, their fondest wish.
- In the lower right corner, a famous person—past or present—whom they would like to be for one week.

For example, a card could look like this:



Assign each group member a partner (or let youth choose their own) and have the youth discuss the information on the cards. Allow five to 10 minutes for each pair to get to know each other's likes, dislikes, dreams, and so on. Then ask each group member to design and

draw a "gift" for his or her partner. Get the whole group together for the gift exchange. Encourage gift-givers to explain the gift choice.

RESPONSE (OR CLOSING)

Pass out paper and pencils or felt-tip markers. Ask each group member to draw a magazine advertisement that sells himself or herself. Youth members should consider:

- their finest features (talents and personality)
- traits that make them desirable (what they can do for others and society)
- what makes their product (them) unique.

Encourage the youth to draw pictures, design logos and write catchy verses. When they are finished, display the ads one at a time and see if group members can guess which person is advertised.

Close this session with a prayer of thankfulness for each individual in the group. Ask that the group, as the body of Christ, will be strong because of its diversity.