

Dialoguing Activities

Activities which feature dialogue as a central component include the following:

One-on-one

Designate some way for the participants to pair off (for example, choose as a partner someone you haven't talked to this week, choose a partner who is a different generation or sex, choose a partner who was born in the same month as you). Give the participants something specific to think about and allow a moment of thinking time (for example, think about a living person you admire, think about something you consider evil, think about a recent time you knew God was helping you). Designate which partner should share first. Switch partners and repeat with a new topic.

Panel

Select about six participants to be on a panel. Ways of selecting the panel include asking for volunteers, having each circle select its "least shy" person, drawing names from a hat, calling on elected officers, and so on. Dialogue with the panelists in front of the group for twenty minutes or so. Work from a prepared set of questions but be open to the movement of the dialogue. Listen carefully to the responses and ask follow-up questions based on them. Encourage the panelists to respond to one another. Also encourage response and questions from the audience. You may wish to select a second group of panelists halfway through the session. (This method is a good way for the director to demonstrate the dialogue technique for other participating adults.)

Public interview

Ask for a volunteer who would be willing to dialogue with you in front of the entire group. Interview the person about some area of life that is important to him or her. Work from prepared questions but be flexible.

On the spot

Have the participants write their names on small cards. Collect the cards and shuffle them conspicuously. Pick one name from the pack and ask the person picked if he or she is willing to be "on the spot" for a few minutes. If so, ask a few dialogue questions, then pick another name. The person picked may pass altogether, or pass on any question asked. You may want to keep a set of name cards handy so that you can use this technique at a moment's notice.

Chain reaction

Call on one person to share his or her pre-response to a question. Dialogue briefly with the person about the response, then tell the person to select the next responder. Designate in some way who can be picked; for example, you must pick a person from a different group, a person of the opposite sex.