

TIPS

- Planning a meeting? These questions may help guide your choice of activities and discussion questions:
 - *Variety*: Is there variety, something for the introvert *and* the extrovert? the tactile learner *and* the auditory learner? something active *and* something quiet? something to *see*, to *do*, to *speak*, to *hear* and to *touch*?
 - *Relevance*: Does this fit kids' interests or needs?
 - *Openness*: Am I allowing space for kids to share their opinions, thoughts and feelings?
 - *Age-Appropriateness*: Is this stuff they can *do*?
 - *Challenge*: Am I challenging them, not just spoon-feeding the same old stuff?
- When you lead, be yourself. Don't try to be a teenager. Be your own authentic, adult self. Your integrity builds credibility.
- Stay in touch with the world of your teenagers. Occasional read a teen magazine, watch shows popular with teens, listen to top-40 radio, watch an hour of MTV, visit informally with the kids, talk to their parents...the options are endless. Not sure where to begin? Ask the kids to loan you a favorite CD, video or book.
- You don't need to have answers. You need only participate in the journey. Be honest about your limitations, transparent in your own journeying and willing to examine your own assumptions. By this you will earn kids' trust.
- The relationship's the thing. The caring friendships you develop with kids teach them far more about God's love and grace than the content introduced in a meeting.

ICeBRaKeRS

PEOPLE BINGO

Draw on your knowledge of the kids in your group to create a **5-column-by-5-row bingo card**; in each cell of the card write a descriptive sentence about one or more kids, for example:

- has bungee jumped
- speaks three languages
- knows the full name of the character played by Tori Spelling on "Beverly Hills 90210"
- loves to eat sushi
- has been to Hawaii

Photocopy the bingo card and distribute the card, along with **pencils**, to group members, who then circulate, talking to other members and writing in the names of the people who fit the descriptions in the cells. Winners can be the first people to complete a row or column, or the person who fills in the most names.

Variation: Don't make the descriptions group-specific. Simply fill in the cells with generic statements, for example:

- is wearing red socks
- saw a movie in a theater in the last 48 hours
- is the youngest child in his or her family
- works in a fast food restaurant