

PATHWAYS

Introductory Session

This is the first session in our introductory series of videos that will focus on the three basic elements of discipleship: Prayer, Bible Study and Service. The goal of this introductory session is primarily to get the group to familiarize themselves with one another. Relationship is a key component to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. Relationship with Jesus - and one another.

Leader Prep Before You Meet:

If playing an icebreaker game like “Diversity Bingo” prepare your Bingo cards ahead of time, or whatever supplies you may need for getting to know each other. Peruse the list of ice-breaker activities to decide which one you want to utilize. These are just suggestions. If you have other ideas, feel free to use them.

Worship Supplies: A candle

Opening Activities



Centering Moment

Light a candle and observe 30 seconds of silence as a reminder of God’s presence among us.



Psalm 27:1, 4

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid.
One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.*



Reflect

What is the one thing you seek most from the Lord? What are you seeking or hoping for by participating in this small group? Take a few moments of silence to sit and reflect on that thought. Share with others if you feel comfortable doing so.



Opening Prayer:

God of hospitality, we come before you today seeking both a deeper relationship with you and with one another. Open our hearts and minds to where you are leading us - to hear challenging words with thoughtfulness, and alternative perspectives with compassion. Guide us always in your paths. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Getting to Know Each Other

Introduce yourselves to one another. Take some time to learn a little bit about each other. Some icebreaker games/ideas for getting to know each other:

- Play Two Truths and a Lie (Participants share two things about themselves that are true, one that is a lie and the rest of the group has to guess which is the lie.)
- Play “Whose Story Is It?” Start this ice breaker game by writing your funniest or weirdest story on a small piece of paper. (It has to be a true one!) Then fold the paper up and drop it into a bowl or other container. The facilitator randomly reads every story & the group has to guess who the writer is. This is a great way to get to know each other and find out new things.
- Diversity Bingo. This game helps participants to get information on each other in a fun, competitive way. First, create a bingo card containing a grid of squares with a statement or question in each square that will apply to some members of your group and is in line with the objectives of your class, workshop, or event. (Sample ones provided at the end of this lesson) After each player gets a bingo card, they mingle around introducing themselves and finding other participants who can sign their cards indicating that a statement applies to him/her. To avoid having people only talk to one or two people and filling up their card, limit the signatures they can give to 1 or 2 per card. When everyone has reached bingo or is super close, you can share something you’ve learned about each other, yourself and the experience of this ice breaker activity.
- Where are you from? Ask group members to share one local custom and internal value they got from that place, and why is that important for them. Encourage people to share a short story if they want. Sharing customs and values from your childhood can create more understanding and help form stronger bonds.



Share

Share your religious background. Are you new to the faith? A lifelong Christian, Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, etc? What brought you to the congregation you are currently attending?



Watch: Pathways Introduction Video



Discuss

How open are you to change and hearing new ideas? What are some of the obstacles you have encountered in your life when presented with changing ideas or culture? Do you embrace them or push back against them? Why? What are some of the fears you have associated with changing ideas, interpretations, and understandings?



Closing Prayer

Creator God, we know we are like clay being constantly shaped and molded by your hands. Thank you for bringing us together as the body of Christ to continue to learn and grow in our faith. Change our hearts and minds to be more in accordance with your will for our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.



Weekly Exercises To Do At Home

1. In your journal, write down something you learned at some point in your life that changed your perspective on scripture or an issue.
2. In your journal, describe the things you are convinced you'll never have your mind changed about. Why are these convictions so important to you?
3. Throughout the week, jot down anything that challenges you.

Diversity
BINGO

Left-handed	Born outside the US	Vegetarian	Eldest Child of the Family	Has a dog
Speaks more than one language	Raised Catholic	Lifelong Lutheran	Immediate Family Member in the Military or is a Veteran	Hates the beach
Raised on a farm	Raised in a big city	Enjoys Football	Is an artist (painter)	Lived in another country
Good with math	Scientist	Teacher	Likes to read	Likes spicy foods
Has a cat	Musician	Traveled outside the US	Was not born into a Christian home	Enjoys Cooking

Diversity
BINGO

Raised Catholic	Hates the beach	Raised on a farm	Is an artist (painter)	Raised in a big city
Speaks more than one language	Left-handed	Likes to read	Enjoys Football	Born outside the US
Vegetarian	Scientist	Immediate Family Member in the Military or is a Veteran	Eldest Child of the Family	Has a dog
Musician	Likes spicy foods	Teacher	Enjoys Cooking	Good with math
Lifelong Lutheran	Lived in another country	Has a cat	Was not born into a Christian home	Traveled outside the US

Diversity
BINGO

Was not born into a Christian home	Hates the beach	Lifelong Lutheran	Vegetarian	Scientist
Speaks more than one language	Eldest Child of the Family	Teacher	Musician	Traveled outside the US all
Is an artist (painter)	Lived in another country	Immediate Family Member in the Military or is a Veteran	Left-handed	Has a dog
Likes to read	Likes spicy foods	Enjoys Cooking	Born outside the US	Enjoys Football
Raised Catholic	Raised in a big city	Good with math	Raised on a farm	Has a cat

Diversity
BINGO

Was not born into a Christian home	Scientist	Lifelong Lutheran	Likes spicey foods	Musician
Speaks more than one language	Eldest Child of the Family	Likes to read	Hates the beach	Raised on a farm
Is an artist (painter)	Born outside the US	Has a dog	Left-handed	Immediate Family Member in the Military or is a Veteran
Teacher	Enjoys Cooking	Lived in another country	Has a cat	Traveled outside the US
Raised Catholic	Raised in a big city	Good with math	Enjoys Football	Vegetarian

Diversity
BINGO

Enjoys Football	Has a dog	Has a cat	Born outside the US	Good with math
Speaks more than one language	Scientist	Raised Catholic	Enjoys Cooking	Traveled outside the US all
Is an artist (painter)	Lived in another country	Raised on a farm	Left-handed	Eldest Child of the Family
Raised in a big city	Musician	Hates the beach	Teacher	Was not born into a Christian home
Likes to read	Vegetarian	Likes spicey food	Immediate Family Member in the Military or is a Veteran	Lifelong Lutheran

Diversity
BINGO

Has a cat	Raised on a farm	Vegetarian	Eldest Child of the Family	Born outside the US
Speaks more than one language	Raised Catholic	Has a dog	Immediate Family Member in the Military or is a Veteran	Hates the beach
Lifelong Lutheran	Raised in a big city	Scientist	Is an artist (painter)	Lived in another country
Traveled outside the US	Enjoys Football	Was not born into a Christian home	Likes to read	Likes spicy foods
Good with math	Musician	Enjoys Cooking	Teacher	Left-handed