



Penny for your thoughts 15 min

ICEBREAKERS AND ENERGISERS

ICEBREAKER
GROUP EXERCISE

About the exercise

TARGET AUDIENCE

Best suited to grassroots-level groups/faith communities, civil society organisations and human rights defenders.

PURPOSE

To help participants connect by illustrating the many things they have in common.

DESCRIPTION

A simple and effective 'getting to know you' exercise, which focuses on what participants have in common rather than their differences.



Instructions

RESOURCES

- 10 stones, or coins, or scraps of paper for EACH participant.

HOW TO INTRODUCE THE EXERCISE 2 MIN

Divide into groups of 4-6 participants. Give everyone 10 pennies/small stones/scraps of paper, etc. Tell the group that they are going to do a short 'getting to know you' exercise.

Explain how the exercise works:

Going around the circle, the first person should state something s/he likes (e.g., reading). Everyone else who likes the same thing puts one 'penny' in the middle of the circle. Then the second person states something they like and everyone else who likes this puts another penny in the centre. Continue until one person runs out of pennies.

HOW TO RUN THE EXERCISE 10 MIN

Tell the groups to start and wander between groups listening to what is happening.

HOW TO CONCLUDE THE EXERCISE 3 MIN

Ask the participants to come back to the plenary. Invite 2-3 participants to briefly share their reflections on the exercise.

- What did they notice?
- Was anything surprising?

Thank participants for sharing.

Source

Adapted from the 'Me too' exercise, in [Facilitating group introductions](#), Lions Club International.