Good Icebreaker Questions:

These questions are taken from Gary Poole’s book, *The Complete Book of Questions*. I will give them to you in various categories.

A well placed question can help enormously in opening people in your group up. I would encourage you to wait on the answers from your group. Silence is not your enemy, and often gives people time to think about the question you have put forth.

I would also encourage you not to ask obvious questions that have “Yes” or “No” answers. Ask questions that lights a fuse in a person’s heart or can illicit something inside of them that encourages a thoughtful response.

With these thoughts in mind, please feel free to use these questions to open a meeting, or to use in another setting within your group format.

**Light and Easy**

- How many siblings do you have? What’s your birth order?
- What’s one of your nicknames? What do you prefer to be called?
- What books on your shelf are begging to be read?
- What room in your house best reflects your personality? Explain why.
- How many days would you last in solitary confinement? How would you do it?
- Do you save old greeting cards and letters, or throw them all away? Why?
- On a scale of 1-1, how well do you sing? Do you want to sing for us – just kidding!
- How often do you get a haircut? Describe your worst haircut.
- What’s the story behind a time when you got locked out?
- Have you ever been left anywhere by a parent, or a group you were with and what went through your mind when you realized you were left behind?
- What’s the best New Year’s resolution you’ve ever made and actually kept?
- When was the last time you sat on a park bench for more than ten minutes? Describe the occasion.

**Personal Profile**

- Are you a hugger or a non-hugger? Why?
- What drives you crazy?
- Are you more likely to engage in conflict or meet it head on?
- Are you a leader or a follower? How do you know?
- Are you more of a rule breaker or a rule keeper? Why?
- Would you describe yourself as an extrovert or an introvert? Give an example.
- What’s one of your hobbies? Why does that interest you?
- How do you typically react in a sudden, extreme, pressure-filled crisis?
- Are you a person of many friends, or just a few close ones?
- What do you take for granted most?
- How competitive are you? Explain.
Preferences

• What would be your dream job? Why?
• Which do you prefer: the hustle and bustle of city life or the quiet and serenity of country life? Why?
• Do you read or study best in silence or in a place with background noise? Why?
• Do you prefer exercising your mind or your body? How frequently do you do either?
• Are you more of a dog person or a cat person? Why?
• Are you a traveler or a homebody? Explain.
• Where’s your perfect dream vacation spot?
• What’s one thing you would rather pay someone to do than do yourself?
• What’s your preferred way to meet new people?
• What’s your favorite season of the year?

Blast From the Past

• What’s your favorite birthday memory?
• What was your first job? How much were you paid?
• As a kid, what did you want to grow up to be?
• When you were a child, what was your idea of fun?
• How many bones have you broken? Which ones?
• How did someone plan a surprise for you? What was your reaction?
• What was your favorite subject in school? Why?
• Have you ever helped a total stranger? If so, How?
• What “close call” have you had in the past? Describe it.
• How has your birth order affected you?
• How many foreign countries have you visited? Which one stands out in your memory?

Viewpoints

• What does success mean to you?
• What is the secret to a long life?
• Why do you think people live in denial?
• How would you describe the perfect day?
• In your opinion, what is the moral condition of the world?
• Why do you think divorce is so prevalent?
• What is the ideal age to get married? Why?
• What advice can you give about conquering fear?
• What do you think is the secret to a happy marriage?
• Why do bad things happen to good people?
• Why do you think it is so hard for people to say they are sorry?
• Whom do you consider the greatest American president? Why?
• What does this quote mean? “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.” (Jim Elliot)
**Hard-Hitting**
- What’s one regret you live with?
- What do you live in denial about?
- What’s one conviction you hold that you would be willing to die for?
- What’s your most embarrassing moment?
- What bad habits has God enabled you to break?
- What fear are you trying to overcome?
- Have you ever been falsely accused? Describe the situation and how you felt about it.
- What do you suspect people say about you behind your back?
- What scares you the most about the future?
- What traumatic event has changed your life?
- Who’s the “black sheep” of your family? Explain.
- How do you comfort those who have suffered a tragedy or loss?
- What was the hardest era of your life?
- How afraid of dying are you? Explain.
- What epitaph would you want engraved on your tombstone?
- What is the hardest thing you’ve ever done?
- What’s something you consider too daring to try?
- What lesson has failure taught you?
- Have you forgiven yourself for personal failures? Why or why not?
- How healthy or unhealthy are you with setting boundaries? Explain.

**From the Heart**
- When was the last time you cried? Why?
- What makes you stand to your feet and cheer?
- What or who inspires you to be all that you can be?
- What in this world breaks your heart?
- What mood are you usually in? Explain why.
- How have you honored your parents?
- What was the happiest era of your life?
- When have you recently felt overwhelmed? Describe the situation.
- What was the best surprise you ever pulled off?
- Is there a family tradition that has a special meaning for you? Please describe it.
- When is the right time to demonstrate “tough love”? 
- Was there ever a time someone rescued you? Describe this time.
- When was the last time you felt honored? Describe the situation.
- Growing up, what virtue did you see in your parents that you want to emulate?

**Spiritually Speaking**
- What is the greatest spiritual advice you were ever given?
- How do you picture the face of God?
- What does “being spiritual” mean to you?
- How do you think the afterlife will be different from this life?
• If you could design your own church service, what would it look like?
• What is the difference between faith and religion?
• What is the greatest sin?
• What does God want from us?
• If you could ask God to do any three things for you, and you knew He would do them, what would you ask him to do?
• How do you discern God’s direction for your life?
• What fears do you have about God?
• What makes it difficult for you to trust God?
• If you were to die today, would you go to heaven? On what do you base your answer?
• What personal religious experiences have had the most profound impact on you?
• What’s your favorite Bible verse and why?
• What season are you currently in with regard to your spiritual life?
• What surprises you most about Jesus?
• What’s the first question you will have for God when you die?
• What has produced the greatest spiritual growth in your life?
• How has God changed you?
• When was a prayer of yours answered? Tell about it.