

SMALL GROUP TOOLBOX

The purpose of this toolbox is to build relationships and get people talking about their lives – home, school, faith, friends, etc. It's all about God in our lives – RIGHT HERE and RIGHT NOW.

First and foremost, go around the table and check in by sharing “Happies” and “Crappies.” Then, to get into a discussion that's somewhat structured, you can use any of the devices in the small group box. Your group can pick whatever tool they want to use (if they want to use them) – it's wide open!

Each box contains the following tools:

Caught Ya Cards – These cards are divided into four sections: Lyrics, Bible Verses, Quotes I and Quotes II. Your group will receive any combination of these sets. To use these, have each youth pick a card that stands out to him or her and applies to life right now. Be sure that everyone shares why!

Life Sticks (I & II) - This “Stick” of questions is another discussion starter. Some of the questions are silly; some are serious. Either way – it's a great way to get to know one another on a more personal level. Go around the circle, have a youth pick a number (1-100 or 101-200 depending on the Life Stick). Read the question out loud and have everyone answer.

Would You Rather Card Deck – This tool is in card-deck form so that two or three cards can be dealt out to each youth. While youth can lead any of these tool discussions, this particular tool is especially designed for youth to practice leading discussion. After dealing the cards out, go around the circle and have youth read their questions out loud. The person reading is responsible for making sure everyone's decision is heard – chances are there will be some debate on some of these. The youth leader sets the pace and keeps people's attention. If you come across any blank cards, be sure to have the group write their own “Would You Rather” question.

Prayer Accordion – Ideally this would be used at the end of every small group session. The Prayer Accordion is a list of guided closing prayers. To use this tool, have one youth roll the dice. (Only roll one if you ever want to do the first prayer) Whichever number is rolled, is the number of the prayer your group closes with. All of these prayers are geared towards getting youth more comfortable with prayer – especially praying out loud or with other people. In the beginning the youth may need some coaching, but the idea is that once they “practice using their voices,” talking to God in different ways will become much easier! (The four tea lights and matches are available if your group rolls on the Candle Prayer.)