

## Concentric Circles

**Supplies Needed:** Question for group

**Number of People:** Any size but works well in a larger group

### Directions:

- Have the group stand so that they are facing each other in two circles, one inside the other. You can have the group count off by 2s (1, 2, 1, 2...). Then have all the 1s form an inner circle, facing the 2s who formed the outside group. Remind them to break up and not partner with someone from their org or someone they know.
- Once the circles have been created, tell the group that they will be having a series of short conversations with a series of partners. They should introduce themselves to each new partner, and they should share the time so that each person has a chance to speak.
- Give the group a question that each pair is to discuss.
- After two or four minutes, call time. Tell the **inside circle** to move a certain amount of people to the left so that everyone is facing someone new.
- Remind people to be sure and introduce themselves to their new partners. Then give another question for the new pairs to discuss.
- Ask maybe 5-7 questions, depending on the group size. Adjust the time you give each pair and the number of times you have people move according to the needs of the group and the constraints of the meeting.

### Potential Questions:

- Share one thing about your first, middle or last name.
- What is one thing most people would be surprised to learn about you?
- What is your favorite holiday and why?
- Describe a time when you were discouraged from doing something because of your gender.
- Describe a time when you were discouraged from doing something because of your age. •
- Describe your elementary school. Who was your favorite teacher? Why?
- Share with your partner one stereotype which disturbs you about your racial, religious or ethnic group.
- Tell your partner about an ethnic or cultural group, other than your own, that you admire, respect or enjoy.

- If you could change one thing about society, what would it be?
- Describe a time when someone's words hurt you.
- Share with your partner a time when you did not interrupt prejudice.
- Describe at least one quality you love about yourself.

**Discussion Questions:**

- How did it feel to share this personal information about yourself with your different partners?
- Without naming the person, what did someone do that made you feel you were being listened to well?
- Was anything you heard surprising or new to you?
- Some questions may have been more difficult to answer than others. Which questions were particularly hard for you to respond to? Why do you think that was so? Which questions did you particularly enjoy answering?
- What, if anything, did you learn from this activity