

Giving, Not Grabbing

The Big Question:

- What is community?

Break the Ice:

- **Ten Things In Common**
 - Divide participants into groups of four or five.
 - Tell group members to find ten things they have in common with each other.
 - (Simple cop-outs—such as body parts and membership in this youth group—are not allowed.)
 - When the time is right, scramble the groups and give the same assignment.
 - Repeat as often as you like.
- **Card Pieces:**
 - Before the meeting:
 - Cut each playing card into half diagonally, then in half diagonally again, so you have four triangular pieces for each card.
 - Mix all the pieces together and put equal numbers of cards into as many envelopes as you have teams (of three or four).
 - At the meeting:
 - Divide participants into teams of three or four. You need at least three teams. If you're short of people, teams of two will work fine.
 - Give each team an envelope of playing card pieces.
 - Each team has three minutes to sort its pieces, determine which pieces it needs to make complete cards, and develop a bargaining strategy.
 - After three minutes, allow the teams to start bartering for pieces. Participants may barter on their own or collectively with their team. Give the teams eight minutes to barter.
 - When the time is up, count each team's completed cards. Whichever team has the greatest number of completed cards wins the round.
 - Debrief by asking:
 - Which negotiation strategies worked? Which didn't?
 - How could the team have worked together better?

Supplies:

- Sets of playing cards—enough for each participant to have three or four cards
- Writing instruments
- Paper

Copies:

- Look at the Book
- Story: Someone Must Die (one copy)

- What other skills (such as active listening or empathy), did the team need to use?

Look at the Book:

- Say: *Jesus taught a way of living that seems crazy to most of us. It's a bottom-side-up, inside-out, the-first-will-be-last style of living. But what makes you sit up and take notice is that Jesus did more than ask **you** to live this way. **He** lived this way, too. Let's read about this.*
- Distribute the handout: **Look at the Book** (attached).
- Say: *I will read the regular print, and you read the bold together.*
- Invite participants to probe the passages in pairs or small groups.

Interact:

- Read aloud the story: *If Someone Must Die, Kill Me* (attached).
- Divide participants into four groups, choosing a leader for each group.
- Assign each group one of the following people:
 - The old man
 - The rebel leader
 - A prisoner who was not shot
 - One of the strong young men
- Ask each leader to lead his or her group in writing a letter (as if it came from the group's assigned person) to an absent family member about the events of the story. Ask each group to include some words or phrases from the lesson scripture.
- When the time is right, ask a person from each of the four groups to read their group's letter aloud to all participants.

Pray:

- Ask participants to find a partner and talk with that partner about the following prompts:
 - The lesson passage tells us to look to the interests of other people. Who is a person you would like me to pray for and why?
 - Tell about a time you have helped someone, so I can ask God to add his blessing to your help.
 - Look at the lesson scripture and give me one way I could pray for you.
- When the time is right, invite all partner pairs back into the whole group. Invite people to pray aloud for their partners in this group.