



[Version 1 – April 2009]

Turnover Questions

A good way to get small group sharing going...

This is a variation on an old theme. It's a way to help those nervous and shy small groups to get talking and sharing in a fun and effective way.

The way it works couldn't be simpler. You simply put a load of cards face-down in the middle of the circle. Each person then picks a card from the top of the pile and is invited to answer the question on it. Once the person who picked the card has answered the question, you can invite others to do so too. Hopefully this will generate some productive and growthful sharing.

As the small group facilitator, you can depart from the cards at any time if you think that a useful conversation has started. Alternatively, you can start the small group work in another way, and simply keep the cards in reserve in case a kick-start is needed.

The questions on the cards can be very varied: they can be simple ice-breaker questions to relax people and get them used to listening and sharing, or they can be a little deeper. For instance, you might ask about family life, about their views on an important social issue, or about how they respond to a particular part of the faith or Catholic life.

This file contains a selection of questions, divided into categories. How you use them is up to you, but it might be good to stack the deck so that the more light-hearted questions come first and don't come up in the middle of a discussion which has gone beyond the stage of ice-breaking.

It can also be good to end a session on a more light-hearted question, just so that the exit-mood is right after the session.

How you use this resource, though, depends on your own approach to group work, on the requirements of the session, or on the group or the wider programme.

You will probably want to add more questions of your own too. The questions provided are in a format which makes them easy to print and cut out. Duplicating this format, however, shouldn't be too much hassle! The Faith and Catechesis questions, especially, are only a very small selection of the areas you might like to cover.

The questions given here are divided into four sections:

- Ice-breakers
- Who am I/ How am I?
- Life, the world and everything
- Faith and Catechesis

ICE BREAKERS

My 'claim to fame'
is...

My favourite song
is...

My last meal
was...

Have you ever met
a famous person?

Which fictional character
would you most like to be?

How did you get here
today? (e.g. car, walked etc)

If I won the lottery, the
first thing I would buy is...

My favourite TV
programme is...

My first pet was
called...

If I could visit anywhere in
the world, I would go to...

If I had a time
machine, I would...

What time did you get out
of bed last Saturday?

WHO AM I / HOW AM I?

How do you feel at
the moment?

Describe your
family.

What is your
happiest memory?

Tell us about your
school/ Job.

What do you want
to do in the future?

Who are you
closest to in life?

What was the last kind
thing you did for
someone?

What was the last kind thing
someone else did for you?

Describe yourself in
20 words or less.

Where were you
born?

What is your
earliest memory?

What sort of things
do you worry about?

LIFE, THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING

If I could change one thing in the world, it would be...

Why do people fall out with each other?

What are the most important qualities to look for in a friend?

What are the most important qualities to look for in a boyfriend/ girlfriend?

Who do you most admire in the world?

One thing in the world I worry about is...

One thing I can do to make the world a better place is...

What do you think makes people do bad or harmful things?

One thing in the world I am hopeful about is...

Who was the last person who really surprised you by something they did?

What was the last thing that made you really angry?

What does it mean to have 'power'?

FAITH AND CATECHESIS

One thing I love about my faith is...

How do you pray?

What are the seven Sacraments?

My experience of Mass is...

One thing I have trouble believing is...

One thing that confuses me about my faith is...

When did you last go to confession?

Do you have a favourite story or line from the bible?

Who first introduced you to your faith?

Why does God ask us not to do certain things?

What does the word 'church' mean to you?

If you could ask God one question, what would you ask?

What happened the last time you went to Mass?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Why did Jesus die on the cross?