

## Discovering Assets Activity (Speed Dating Style)

This exercise is a fun, energetic way to discover assets and deepen relationships in the congregation.

Supplies needed:

- Small pieces of paper (1/8 of a sheet of paper) – *you need one piece for each question per person (i.e. if you are asking 8 questions and there are 20 people, you need 160 small pieces of paper)*
- A pen for each person
- A basket for the middle of each table
- One to two flip charts with markers
- Long or round tables with an even number of chairs around the table.
- A timer or cell phone to time one minute

To begin the activity, each person partners up with someone else. One person of the pair is a '1' and the other person is a '2'. The 1's always sit in the same chair throughout the activity. The 2's move to a new chair and pair up with another "1" after each question (therefore they have a new partner).

The leader asks a question from the list below. Be sure to include the number of the question (i.e., the first question is #1, the second #2, etc.) The leader sets the timer for one minute. Each partner quickly writes their name, the number of the question and their answer on a small piece of paper and throws it in the basket in the middle of the table; then each person shares their answer with their partner. When the timer goes off, all conversation ends.

The leader goes to the flip chart paper and writes the title of the question on the paper (i.e. Significant Gift) and asks everyone to shout out what their partner has said to them. The leader records the answers on the big paper. Please note, if you are working with a large group, you may want to have 2 or 3 flip charts and 2 or 3 people recording answers.

After all answers are recorded on the flip chart, the 2's move to a new chair to pair up with a different #1; the next question is asked and the process is repeated.

Ideally it is good to use Post-it note flip charts, so the sheets of paper can be put up around the room. After all questions have been answered, take time to look at all the assets that have been recorded. Amazing! God has blessed us richly!! Invite people to walk around and look at all that has been recorded. What might we do with all of these assets? Take time to do some brainstorming.

At the end of the activity, the small pieces of paper in the baskets are gathered and a volunteer takes them home and compiles the results for future use. It is important that as the responses are tabulated the name of the person giving that response is also a part of the tabulated list.

I believe this statement is true: God has given you everything you need in order to do what God is calling you to do. The goal is to use this list to identify leaders and volunteers who might be excited to engage in a particular activity/ministry/project that is being developed by someone in the congregation. It also will provide a compass as your congregation discerns how to respond to community needs. For example – if there is a need for an afterschool program, but no one in the congregation has the gifts needed for this, then this program should not be pursued.

Please note that as people change partners and join in a short conversation, relationships are being deepened, an added by-product of this activity.

Questions: *(Hint: Do not use all of these questions.....depending on the time allotted for the activity 7-8 questions is plenty.)*

What is your most significant gift?

What is your most significant skill?

What is your most significant passion?

What is your most significant artistic ability?

What is your most significant spiritual gift?

What is something you like to do?

What is something you used to like to do?

What is something others say you're good at?

What is a material asset you can share?

What do you have a lot of?

What musical instrument can you play?

What is it that you know well enough that you could teach to someone?

Who is a person outside your congregation who owes you a favor or would do you a favor if you ask (what is their skill/experience)?

What is invisibly good about this congregation?

What is an asset of your church building?

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