

300+
Sizzling
Icebreakers

300+ *Sizzling* Icebreakers

For cell churches, home groups
& youth work

Michael Puffett
and
Blair Mundell

MONARCH
BOOKS

Oxford, UK and Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

Copyright © 2009 by Michael Puffett and Blair Mundell.

The right of Michael Puffett and Blair Mundell to be identified as author of this work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

First published in the UK in 2009 by Monarch Books
(a publishing imprint of Lion Hudson plc),
Wilkinson House, Jordan Hill Road, Oxford OX2 8DR.
Tel: +44 (0)1865 302750 Fax: +44 (0)1865 302757
Email: monarch@lionhudson.com
www.lionhudson.com

ISBN 978-1-85424-919-7 (UK)
ISBN 978-0-8254-6318-1 (USA)

Distributed by:
UK: Marston Book Services Ltd, PO Box 269,
Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YN;
USA: Kregel Publications, PO Box 2607
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501.

This book has been printed on paper and board independently certified as having come from sustainable forests.

British Library Cataloguing Data
A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

Printed and bound in Malta by Gutenberg Press.

Dedication

To Jubilee Church, our precious family in Christ.
This book is dedicated to you.

We trust that the life in these pages is an accurate representation
of what you have fostered over the years.

Thank you, Jubilee, for your continual commitment to our vision.

Contents

Foreword 17

Breaking People in Slowly 19

Triple Threat	20
What's that Whiff?	20
'Who's in da House?'	20
Lights, Camera, Action!	21
Blind Man's Art	21
What Floats Your Boat?	21
Picasso Portraits	22
Did You Know?	22
Greedy Game	22
Breakdown	23
Sit/Stand/Lie down	23
Chaos Communication	23
Mount Shoe	24
ID Analysis	24
Got Your Back!	24
The Interview	25
Picture This...	25
If I Was...	25
Coin Chronology	26
Standing in Line	26
Christmas Jingle	26
Playdough Charades/Pictionary Charades	27
Blind Man's Buff	28
'My Last Month' Poem	28
The 'New Small Group Member' Welcoming Quiz	28
40-Inch Dash	29
Alphabet Pockets	29
Atlas Small Group	29
Balloon Catch	30
Balloon Nose Pop	30



Banana Dress-Up	30
Banana Poke	31
Banana Surgery	31
Most Favourite Gift	31
When I Go to Russia...	32
Who Am I?	32
Who in the Bible Am I?	32
What Am I?	32
Find Your Partner	33
What a Surprise!	33
Party Trick	33
The Chocolate Test	33
Favourite Song	34
String Intros!	34
Bun Icing	34
Cake Cutting	35
Which Animal?	35
Mixed People	36
Alphabet Game	36
Beaky	37
Lucky Dip	37
Spot the Difference	38
Airport	38
Making New Friends (1)	38
Making New Friends (2)	38
Paper Charades	39
You've Been Pegged!	39
Sausage	40
Why I Am	40
Mosaic Story	40

Nowhere to Hide

41

Ready Steady Advertise!	42
Whose Line is it Anyway?	42
Thinking out of the Box!	42
A Tight Fit!	43
Fashion Show	43
Banana Tights	43



Battered Sweets	44
Mummy Bake	44
Nose Spread	45
Baby Bottle Burp	45
Banana Barf	45
Most Embarrassing Moment	46
Blindfold Feeding Game	46
What Do You Have?	46
Would You Rather...	47
SingStar® or Dance Mat	47
Endurance with Mints	47
Bum Spelling	47
Doughnut Line	48
H ² O Tunes	48
Scripture Revision	48
Warm Up the Worshippers	49
Keep On Singing	49
Foot and Mouth Art	49
Look, No Hands	50
Shakespeare in Love	50
Lovely Legs	51
Brussels Sprout Relaunch	51
Best Memories	51
Fashion Icon	52
Connected Circle	52
VIPs	52
Family Circle	53
The Ladder of Life	53
Face-Off	53
Pairs Eat	53
Chair Flex	54
Jelly Bean Challenge	54
Eating Relay	54
Sticky Sweets Relay	55
Extreme Texting	55
Glove Mayhem	56
Championship Glove Mayhem	56
It's a Spoon Thing	56

Energizers**57**

Who's the King of the Jungle?	58
Pop Goes the... Balloon	58
Burst your Bubble!	59
Bobsleigh	59
Hide and Seek	59
Human Maggot Racing	60
Bottleneck	60
Wriggling Mass	60
Fruit Salad	61
Cross Wire	61
Big Knickers Relay	62
Spoon on a String	62
Mummy It	63
Iced T-Shirts	63
Stretch Time	63
The Lace Race	64
Scoop a Smartie	64
Write a Song Using Specific Words	64
Newspaper Snake	65
Blind Taste Test	65
Moving Chairs	65
Have You Ever	66
Danceobics	66
Newspaper Tents	66
Popcorn Tossing	67
Ape, Hunter, Lady!	67
S-I-N-G	67
Malteser Blow Ball	68
Malteser Blow Football	68
Malteser Football	68
Extreme Freeze	69
Kinder Surprise	69
Musical Questions	70
Toe Tramping	70
Taste the Food	70
Water Challenge	71
The Blind Line	71
Not a Drop	72

Musical Cushions	72
Drummers Unite	72
Rearranging	73
Clothes Pegs Relay	73

Getting the Word In **74**

Alphabet Names	75
Book by Verse	75
The Word	75
What is a Father?	76
Bible Names Challenge	76
Fruits of the Spirit	76
Director's Cut	77
Creation?	77
The Big Ten	77
Psalm Writing	77
Passage Parody	78
Most-Wanted Verse	78
Biblical Food	78
Verse Countdown	78
Mission Madness	79
One at a Mime Please!	79
Build a Warrior	79
Not Just Tasty Fruit	80
Topical Topping Pizza	80
Cake Head	81
Invention	81
Purpose?	82
Biblical Twister	82
Know His Voice	82
Red Letter Message	82
Jesus' Lineage	83
Remembrance	83
Memory Circle	83
Worship	83
Bible Challenge	84
Draw a Bible Story (much like Pictionary)	84
Seven Habits	84

What's True and What's Not True?	84
Bible Team Challenge	85
Your Testimony	85
Headline Challenge	85
Playdough Pictionary	86
Bible Hide	86
Names of God	87
Musical Scriptures	87
Bible Dramatization	87
Topic Chooser	87
Psalm Challenge	88
Memories	88
The Parables	88
Miracles	88

Open-Heart Surgery **89**

Timeline	90
A Picture of the Week	90
Bag that Item	90
Black and White	90
Fear Factor	91
Influence	91
Highs and Lows	91
Release of Power	91
Testifying Christ	92
Servanthood Begins After Midnight	92
The Word	92
Hearing from God	92
How to Connect?	92
Name Markers	93
Tortilla Time	93
Six Word Testimony	93
J.O.Y.	94
Tree Climbing	94
Grave Feelings	94
Looking at Me	95
Famous Faces	95
Time Challenge	95

Hurt Feelings	96
Thanksgiving	96
Prophecy of Jesus	96

Pandora's Box **97**

Kick Him Out?	91
Drunken Leader	91
He Prefers Men...	91
Man or Woman?	91
Dating	91
Sex Before Marriage (1)	91
Sex Before Marriage (2)	92
Sex Before Marriage (3)	92
Genetic Engineering	92
Inconceivably Challenging	92
Abortion (1)	100
Abortion (2)	100
Abortion (3)	100
Food for Thought	100
Animal Lover	100
A Question of Time	101
I Don't Adam and Eve It!	101
Meat or Veg?	101
A Monster of a Question	101
Away with Animals	101
The Problem of Suffering	

Q & A **102**

Quiz 1	102
Quiz 2	103
Quiz 3	104
Quiz 4	105
Quiz 5	107
Quiz 6	108

Events for the Masses***110***

Human Noughts and Crosses	111
Mini Olympics	111
Angels and Mortals	112
Ninety Seconds of Fame	112
Around the World	113
The Story	113
Food... Glorious Food!	114
Survey	114
Rock 'n' Roll Evening	114

Ready-made Small Group Nights***115***

BBQ Evening	116
A Night of Ready Steady Cook!	116
Pub Crawl!	116
Gatecrash Another Small Group	117
Night Prayer Walk in Town Among the Nightclubs	117
Themed Evening: Religious Mentality versus Biblical Mindset	118
Themed Evening: The Stages of Our Spiritual Growth	119
Themed Evening: God's Heart for the Nations	120
Themed Evening: Taking the Right Positioning Before Father God	121
Themed Evening: What Do We Have to Give?	123
Themed Evening: Perseverance	124
Themed Evening: Growing Outside of Our Walls	125
Themed Evening: Godly Order	127
Themed Evening: Fruit of the Spirit - Love	129
Themed Evening: Fruit of the Spirit - Joy	131
Themed Evening: Fruit of the Spirit - Peace	133
Themed Evening: Fruit of the Spirit - Patience	135
Themed Evening: Fruit of the Spirit - Kindness and Goodness	138
Themed Evening: Fruit of the Spirit - Self-Control	140
Themed Evening: Fruit of the Spirit - Gentleness	142
Themed Evening: Fruit of the Spirit - Faithfulness	144

Teamwork**146**

Sugar Cube Challenge	147
It's a Wrap!	147
Knock Knock... Who's There?	148
Let's Go Shopping!	148
Island Paradise	148
Blindfold Obstacle Course	149
Chains Challenge	149
Newspaper Fashion Challenge	150
Build a Water Cannon	151
Strategy and Teamwork with Water	152
Playdough Sculptures	152
Ultimate Team Member	153
Director Madness	153
Lego Challenge	154
Crazy Stick	154
Egg Landing	155
Blindfold Geometry	155
Chair Football	156
Who's Who to You	156
IKEA Challenge	157
The Egg-mobile	158
Island Hoppers	159
Teamwork Wins	159
Music and Lyrics	160

Acknowledgments

A huge thank you to all who helped with this project. Sylvie Mundell, Paul and Justine Houghton, Tim and Sinta Price, Chris and Shae Williams, Nicky Kendall, Suzanne Darling, Suzi Steele, Diedre Campbell, John and Canja Cable, John Baxter, Dan Maudhub, Taryn Terlecki, Laura Finn and Ralf Helfrich. You guys are the best!

Foreword

Another book of icebreakers you cry; why do we need this? Icebreakers are growing in popularity in the context of small groups and are used in almost any gathering of people – the question I am often asked is, ‘Why?’ It is because there are three things that icebreakers do in an amazing way:

1. *They give everybody a voice.* Often our models of church put higher value on the voice of our leaders and the voice of the people can be lost. An icebreaker – particularly in a small group or a cell – tells us that a meeting is about participation and that everybody has something to contribute.
2. *They encourage honesty and sharing.* When someone contributes through an icebreaker something important happens: they see that they are treated with respect, and it is this that helps to build trust within the group. As a result, they may feel able to share something more personal in future gatherings.
3. *They build community.* As we share our stories and contributions we slowly learn more about each other and as we do so we become more important to each other. Our emotions are engaged and the people within the group become more and more real to us. What began with a group of strangers has become a group of friends – you are part of a community.

I highly recommend *300+ Sizzling Icebreakers* – it will give people a voice, it will encourage honesty and it will build community.

Laurence Singlehurst

Director of Cell UK

Foreword

It is a privilege to write this foreword for my friend Michael. I first became acquainted with him when he spoke at our annual youth conference in September 2008. I knew instantly that we had found a friend for life.

Michael is a true father in the Lord and a brother in Christ who walks the talk. The reach of his ministry has gone far beyond his native South Africa and England, where he now lives, to the nations where he is having a remarkable influence across the generations.

The book you now hold in your hand is a valuable resource for facilitators of groups of all sizes. The ideas are fun, easy to follow, and require very few props – all you need is a little imagination and your group will come alive.

Revd Josephine Kok
Generation Church, Toronto

Breaking People in Slowly

'Community is the window through which people see Jesus.'

Michael Puffett

We are called to be people who foster community. In this context, icebreakers are an effective tool to bring people together. They are non-threatening, allow the group to interact, and place people gently outside of their comfort zone. Icebreakers not only help to build community, they also bring a much-needed injection of energy and life. Never underestimate just how predictable and boring we can make our small groups, meetings and celebrations. Although we plan to make them fun, the people we lead become comfortable in their habits very quickly. To help to overcome this, here are a few icebreakers.

10 Tips for Breaking People in Slowly

- 1 If you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail.
- 2 Keep the members of your small group guessing – use the element of surprise. This keeps people excited and on their toes.
- 3 Keep the atmosphere informal; don't announce what you are about to do next in a formal manner, for example: 'And now for the icebreaker.'
- 4 To start off the icebreaker, pick people who will really go for it, as a more embarrassed person will set the tone for the rest. If need be, be prepared to start yourself!
- 5 Keep fun icebreakers simple.
- 6 Do not get too competitive or you will lose the fun side of it.
- 7 Prepare all of your props to avoid wasting time during the meeting.
- 8 Make sure everyone participates, especially visitors who may be feeling left out or uncomfortable.
- 9 If you are leading the show, you should be having the most fun: As the leader, you will set the vibe and establish the tone for the rest of the meeting.
- 10 Keep the prizes simple and cheap. Don't hesitate to use creativity!