

Chick-flick and chat session outline

This event was written and run for Muslim and Christian girls aged 12-16. It could be easily used with little adaptation for girls of other faiths and/or none. It would work well with girls who already know each other, or complete strangers. With newly acquainted young people we'd recommend spending longer doing ice-breakers at the beginning to ensure they feel at ease and to enforce mixing.

The film is 119 minutes long, so takes up almost half of the event time. Before the film there are games to play to get to know each other, and after the film a chance to discuss the themes and faith. This pack includes games, discussion questions and ideas for running the session.

A note about the film

The film used for this event is 'The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants' is rated PG and the main themes are of growing up and of friendship. There are a few challenging themes in the film, including a young girl battling with leukaemia who subsequently dies.

Another one of the characters, Bridget, loses her virginity in the film although all you see is a kiss and it is only once referred to and inexplicably. Thus it has gone straight over the heads of some younger girls I've watched it with, who think they've just been snogging. We've not had a problem with this aspect of the film, but it is something to be aware of.

The other is that Bridget's mum has committed suicide, which is very subtly referred to at the beginning of the film, and again goes unnoticed by less observant/younger viewers. Again it's something to bear in mind.

I would strongly encourage you and your leaders to watch the film prior to showing it to help you understand it and decide if it's appropriate for your audience.

NB: You'll need the correct license to show the film valid at the venue you chose to run the event by British law.

Session Outline

Time	Activity	Description	Materials
5 min	Welcome	Get young people to make name badges when they arrive.	Pens Sticky labels
5 min	Official welcome, House-keeping etc	Emergency procedures, toilet location. Brief introduction to what the day is about.	
5 min	Ice-breaker	Name game with bean-bags	
5 min	Ice-breaker	I have never...	
10 min	Who am I?	Guess the celebrity and then find your partner	Sticky labels
119 min	SHOW FILM	Make sure you have plenty of popcorn!	FILM
5 min	Comfort break		
5 min	Quick chat	In pairs, about the film	
5 min	Guidelines for Dialogue		Guidelines for Dialogue
10 min	TRUE or FALSE		True or False Q's
15 min	Quotes		Quotes
20 min	Small groups questions		Questions
10 min	Game		
5 min	Feedback		
5 min	End		

Leader's notes

Arrive

It's really important to make people feel at ease as they come in, especially as some might be particularly nervous. Making name labels takes the pressure off learning names, which can be hard in a big group.

It might be a good idea to play some music as people come in, and make sure leaders are welcoming and chatting to the young people informally. (NB: for some Muslims music is forbidden).

Gather everyone together and take the opportunity to run through any housekeeping issues (toilets, emergencies etc).

Ice-breakers

You might have some of your own – these are just two ideas. No matter what you do try to run an activity that helps learn names, and one that shows the young people they have something in common with each other. Keep them fun and easy.

Name game with bean bags

You'll need at least 2 small throwing bean-bags or juggling balls for this, but ideally 4 or 5. Throw a bean-bag to someone and say your name, and get them to say their name and throw the beanbag on to someone else. Continue until everyone has said their name at least twice. Take the beanbag back and explain you are now going to make a sequence, and rather than say your own name the name of the person you are throwing the beanbag to. In the sequence everyone must only have the beanbag once – it starts and finishes with you. Once a sequence has been devised you can repeat and speed it up. When you're convinced that everyone has learnt the sequence add another beanbag in at the same time, and then another. Add as many as you think everyone can handle. It should feel like you are all juggling! A variation is to stop and try the sequence the other way round. By the end everyone should know most peoples' names.

I have never...

Everyone needs to be sitting on a chair in a circle with you standing in the middle, with no spare chairs. Explain that the person in the middle will say "never have I ever..." and whatever they chose. If you have done what they say you have to get up and find a new chair. The person who doesn't manage to find a chair is in the middle and makes up the next statement and so it continues. Ideas of statements;



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- Read a Harry Potter book.
- Been on an aeroplane
- Swam in the sea
- Been to a mosque
- Eaten snails

Who am I?

This is a game that continues to serve as an ice-breaker, but also can help you get young people into strategic pairs with people they don't know. Stick the name of a celebrity on each of their backs. They need to ask each other yes or no questions to try and find out who they are, e.g. "am I female?" or "am I fictional?" until they discover who they are. Once they've found out they can continue to help each other. Once everyone has found out who they are get them to find their 'pair' and tell each other who their favourite celebrity is and why. You can use this same pair after the film. Ideas of celebrity pairs;

- Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse
- Robin Hood and Maid Marion
- Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt
- Ant and Dec

Quick Chat

In pairs have a quick buzz about the film. What did you like? What didn't you like? Did it end how you thought it would? Get the pair to share with the wider group if you'd like.

Guidelines for Dialogue

These are essential in setting the right tone before entering into faith discussions. They are available [here](#), simply click on the link to download. There are many ways you can go through them with your group, here at two ideas.

Method one

Take turns reading out a guideline, going round in a circle. Elaborate on what some of them mean, and ask why the young people think they're important. At the end make sure everyone agrees to try to stick to them.

Method two



Give everyone a few minutes to read the guidelines by themselves quietly. Then ask each person to say which one is their favourite, and why. If your group are particularly shy give an example of which is your favourite first.

True or False

Choose one end of the room to be true, and the other false. You will read out the statements below, which are based upon the film. Tell the participants they are to choose with their bodies whether they think the statement is true or false by running the side of the room corresponding to their answer. It's just for fun, but you could keep score and have a winner. The 10 statements I used are;

The 'pants' were a pair of Levis? (TRUE)

The shop they found the jeans at was called Deja Blue (TRUE)

Tibby had purple streaks in her hair (FALSE – they were blue)

Lena was wearing a polka dot shirt when she fell in the sea and got trapped (TRUE)

Carmen's step-mum was called Laura (FALSE – her name is Lydia)

Bridget's dad sent her shampoo (FALSE – it was her friend who received shampoo)

Wallman's tagline was "check in on us!" (FALSE – it was 'Check us out')

Kostas' moped was blue (TRUE)

Carmen's bridesmaid dress was pink (TRUE)

Bridget's dog is called Sandy (FALSE – her name is Maggie)

Quotes

Before the event print the film quotes (found at the back of this pack) and put them into envelopes. Split the group into 2/3 smaller groups (about 4-5 in each group). Give each group an envelope containing the following questions to answer;

Can you remember who said each one, and when?

Which ones do you agree with? Why?

Which ones don't you agree with, why?

Which is your favourite quote as a whole group?



Get each group to report back to each other, and compare your favourite quotes. (Below you will find who said what, in case you're unsure).

"Family is the..." (Yaya)

"Maybe it's sometimes..." (Tibby)

"Maybe the truth is..." (Bailey)

"The arguments of..." (Kostas)

"As we all know..." (Bridget)

"I know who I want to be." (Lena)

Film and faith discussions

Give each group an envelope, with questions cut up individually inside. Tell the groups they are to take turns pulling a random question out the envelope, read it aloud and then tell the group their answer. After they have answered, give anyone else who wants to to give their answer the chance to do so. The envelope should then be passed to the next person and the process repeated. Ensure they don't put the question back in the envelope otherwise the same questions will keep coming out! In this pack is a list of questions you can use, or adapt for this activity. You'll notice some are more serious than others. Put an adult with each group, but encourage the adults to allow the young people to say what they think and to speak less themselves.

Game

It's a good idea to play a light-hearted game after discussions, especially if the discussions have got a little heated.

I like '*Penny Chinny*'. Each attendee will take a penny and place it on their chin. They must balance it on their chin, it should lay flat on the chin, so that everyone will be looking up to the ceiling. If done right everyone should be looking up in the air with the penny placed on the bottom of their chin. Licking it or stealthily use your gum is not allowed. On 'go' everyone will try to knock off others' pennies off their chin while making sure their penny does not get fall. If a player's penny falls they are out. No one is allowed to touch their own penny with their hands again once the game has started. To win you must be the last one with a penny on your chin, and have never touched it to put it back in place or picked it off the ground and put it back on your chin.



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Feedback

It's important to know how the young people found the event, so make time for feedback at the end. You can do this with feedback forms, getting them to write things on post-it notes, or even stand in a circle and throw a beanbag around sharing their highlight.

Quotes

“Family is the most precious gift given to us, the most sacred. Turn your back on them and that’s truly when you have nothing.”

“Maybe it’s sometimes easier to be mad at ones you trust... Because you know they’ll love you no matter what.”

“Maybe the truth is there’s a little bit of loser in all of us. Being happy isn’t having everything in your life perfect. Maybe it’s about stringing together all of the little things.”

“The arguments of old men have nothing to do with us!”

“As we all know obsessed girls cannot be held responsible for our actions.”

“I know who I want to be.”

Faith Questions

Do you think Lena was wrong to go behind her grand-parent's backs and see Kostas?

Is there anything you share with your friends, like a pair of jeans? Is there anything you think you should share that you don't?

Do you know anything that your faith/religion teaches about friendship?

Bailey says she believes there's something more than life on earth. What do you think?

Tibby had to help her mum look after her younger siblings a lot. Do you think that's fair? Do you help with your younger siblings?

Bridget broke the rules set by her camp. Do you think it's important to keep rules set by adults?

Carmen said her and her mum went to church. Do you ever go to a religious building? What's it like?

Is everyone in your family the same faith as you?

Do you disagree with any of the character's behaviour/decisions. What would you have done differently?

Which character do you most identify with?

Carmen says the hall where all the girls' mums met is sacred. Do you think a building has to be a church/mosque/gurdwara etc to be sacred, or can somewhere else be?