Mix Up Your Meetings

Jesus modeled a people-first and people-focused ministry for us. With our hectic lives, it can be easy for our ministry to become task-focused. Being relationally connected is a crucial part of REAL teams and a healthy church. Try using the following ideas to infuse some relational bonding time into your ministry meetings.

- **Start with an Icebreaker**: This can be a quick and easy way to get to know one another better and share some laughs.
  - **This or that**: Players take turns asking and answering interest questions in the form of “this or that?” and justify their response. Ideas include:
    - Mountains or Beach
    - Sushi or Tacos
    - NBA or NFL
    - Physical book or E-reader
  - **Chart your week**: Think back and draw a line graph to represent your past week or month. Consider the high points, low points, moments of inspiration, moments of despair, leveling off times, and where you are now. The line will probably be a mixture of straight, slanted, jagged and curved lines. After you’ve drawn it, share with the group what it means to you.
  - **Questions**: Start your meeting with a fun question that will spark conversation. Ideas include:
    - What’s the most memorable gift you have ever received?
    - What’s something that has been saving your life this week?
    - If someone was to bait you with a trap, what could they use that you couldn’t resist?

- **Spiritual Formation**: Greater than our individual or team efforts to be the church is the Holy Spirit’s work uniting us with one another on mission to make the Father known. Setting aside time to listen to and participate with the Holy Spirit could revolutionize your meetings.
  - Pray in partners or small groups. Intentionally petition for one another, the church, and your community.
  - **Communion**: Have team members take turns leading the group in communion.
  - **Footwashing**: This practice is a way to practically demonstrate love and grace to one another. You could also try any other practice that images the love, respect, and harmony of the Trinity.

- **Recreational Time**: A team that is always task-focused can become disconnected. Schedule time to just enjoy one another’s company.
  - **Throw a party**: Intentionally celebrate completed projects and other successes.
  - **Share a meal**: Breaking bread together is a great way to bond.
  - **Team-building activities**: Go bowling or find an escape room together. Shared experiences help bond people together!

- **Change Locations**: Meeting in a new space can foster creativity and excitement. Places to consider:
  - **Coffee shop**: Meeting in a local business is a great way to get to know the community you have been called to serve.
  - **Park**: Meeting outdoors puts God’s creation on display and can help further connect us with him.
  - **Your home**: Hosting your team is a great opportunity to love and honor your co-laborers.