

## Small Group Personalities

I've been in many small groups over the years and have found similar personalities or roles in each of them. Since I have been in so many groups these roles are easy to spot, because I feel like I have been all of them myself at one time or another. Perhaps you can identify someone from your group that fits one of them or a combination of a couple of them. Or perhaps you can identify a similar role that you fill or one that you would like to fill. This is no slam on any of these roles just an identification mark you can use to move yourself and your group forward. We are in this together. Let's move forward together. Let me introduce you to the group.

### **Crisis Crissy**

This is the person who always seems to have a crisis going on in their life. They often consume large portions of the small group time with details about their crisis.

#### **Advice for Crisis Crissy**

Please understand that this group is your group, and this is a safe place to share. People in this group love you and desire to walk with you through your crisis. Also, be aware that you might not be the only one in the group who is in a crisis. Please consider keeping details to a minimum knowing there are others in the group who also may need to share.

### **Fixer Frank**

This is the person who always seems to have advice for everyone's issues. This person has a hard time NOT fixing everyone's problems.

#### **Advice for Fixer Frank**

Thank you for your input, but please check your motives. Make sure your responses are prompted by the Holy Spirit and not your ego or desire to look like you have it all together when really you are hurting. Frank maybe you need to share your pain and let others speak into you. Fight the temptation to be the fixer and just try listening and learning from others.

### **Timid Timmy**

This is the person who is usually quiet and reserved. This person usually doesn't talk unless called on, but when called on always seems to have a very insightful addition to the discussion.

#### **Advice for Timid Timmy**

Your gentle and quiet demeanor is appreciated, but the group really needs to hear your thoughts and is usually challenged by the things you share from your perspective. We need to hear from you! Please share your thoughts and let God use them to have an impact on others. We need your input! You play an important role in our group!

### **Laughing Larry**

This is the person who always seems to lighten the conversation with a joke or a sarcastic remark. You keep the group laughing and fun!

#### **Advice for Laughing Larry**

We love to have you in our group! Your ability to make people laugh is extremely important, but please know that sometimes the group needs to be serious and reflective. Resist the urge to always feel like you have to be the one making us all laugh. We know you sometimes will need to share your struggles and hurt. Please know that you will still be loved by us and needed in this group even when there are tears instead of laughter!

### **Dogmatic Don**

This is the person who always seems to be against more things than they are for. This person seems to default to the one who finds fault in just about everything – in the study, in the group members, in the church, in other ministries, etc.

#### **Advice for Dogmatic Don**

Don, there is a time and place to expose untruth. Thank you for times when you do this, but please be careful to not nitpick on authors, pastors, churches, etc. who don't happen to believe and do things exactly the way you do. Someone in your group may have taken significant spiritual steps in their journey due to the very person/thing you are nitpicking. Please consider making this your motto – In essentials – unity, and in non-essentials – liberty. Know that there are really good and godly people who don't believe exactly like you, but that God still uses them in huge ways. Try to be the guy who is known for how much you agree rather than on how much you disagree.

### **Stingy Stacy**

This is the person who has been around the spiritual block several times. Their walk with Jesus is respected and admired. They usually have a lot of Bible knowledge and much wisdom in sharing in the group. They spend a lot of time soaking up God and his Word but little time sharing and mentoring others. They have become so heavenly minded that they are becoming of little earthy good.

#### **Advice for Stingy Stacy**

We are so grateful for your commitment to God and his Word. Thank you for your example. Please come alongside a few of those in your group who may need a mentor and someone to help them in their faith. Be generous in giving yourself, your experiences, your giftedness and your knowledge to help someone else grow in their faith. In so doing you will find an even richer relationship with God! We need you Stacy!

**Gabby Gabby**

This is the person who always seems to be talking, and not just in the group. Gabby has a way to share just about every detail they hear in the small group meeting with just about everyone they come in contact with outside the meeting.

**Advice for Gabby Gabby**

Gabby we are so grateful for your ability to talk with everyone in our group. Your communication skills are very needed and appreciated. Gabby please understand that the things shared and entrusted to our small group need to stay in our small group. Please do not share the pains and hurts that are shared in confidence with people outside of our group. Use this information to talk about with God. Uplift hurting group members in prayer!

**Right on Randy**

This is the person who comes to small group ready to invest into peoples lives and ready to receive from people as well. Randy understands the importance and need of community in his life. Randy comes to small group having prepared with personal study the topic/scripture the group will be studying together. Randy identifies others in the group who need poured into and pursues mentoring relationships outside of group time. Randy rarely begins a Bible study plan on the Bible app without inviting others into the plan for accountability and mentoring. Randy is constantly sharing and asking for prayer for people in his life who don't know Jesus yet. Randy loves the people in his group and would do anything for any of them. Randy is a contagious Christian.

**Advice for Right on Randy**

Mentor as many people as your schedule will allow! We need more of you making disciples!