



# I Like My Neighbor Who

Discover what you have in common with others in your group

## TIME

10 minutes



## TEAM STAGE

Forming

## MATERIALS

Place markers (shoes, polypots, tape, chalk, etc.)

## SUMMARY

In this activity, participants can see what fun things they have in common with other group members.

## SET UP

- Have all participants stand up and form a large circle.
- There should be a place marker for everyone in the group (except the person who will be in the middle) – use participants' shoes, a polypot, tape, or even a chalk mark.

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Ask one volunteer to remove their spot from the circle and stand in the middle.
- They will call out "I like my neighbor who..." and then an activity or trait that is true for themselves and might also be true for others in the circle. As an example, *"I like my neighbor who... likes camping"* OR *"...eat cereal for breakfast"* OR *"...love brownies"*.
- Anyone who falls into that category must enter the circle and try to find a new empty spot on the outside. The person in the center also tries to get a spot. The last person left in the middle without a spot will make the next statement.
- Establish a rule that participants may not take a space directly next to them.
-  **Safety:** If playing on a slick surface, make certain that the markers are securely set on the ground. Also, encourage participants to not step directly on the markers to avoid slipping. They should move quickly, but be cautious about running into each other. Remind them to be polite about acquiring a new location; this means no pushing or shoving. The first person to a marker gets it.

## VARIATIONS

- Play a game of [Red Handed](#) in the outside circle at the same time to increase the energy of the game. If a person on the outside gets stuck with both items, they swap with whoever is currently in the middle.
- If the same people are ending up in the middle repeatedly, create a rule that everyone must volunteer to be in the middle once.

 **Online:** To facilitate this activity virtually, have everyone turn their camera off. Call out a statement and have everyone who relates to that statement turn on their camera, look around for a few seconds to see who else has their camera on, and then turn their camera off again. In this variation there is no getting caught in the middle, so type an order of names in the chat and have each participant go in order calling out a statement. [\[click here for video\]](#)



### VARIATIONS *(continued)*

- 👤 **Asynchronous:** To facilitate this activity asynchronously, create a shared document where participants can add statements about activities or traits. Have all participants add statements to the list and then read through the statements and write their name next to any that are true for them.
- For similar activities, try [Have You Ever](#) or [What If I Told You?](#).

### DEBRIEF QUESTIONS

- What was the process you used to think about which statement you chose to say about yourself?
  - What strategies did you use to try to avoid being in the middle? Or use to make sure you ended up in the middle?
  - What is one thing you noticed about how others participated in this activity?
- 📌 **Facilitator Note:** As a general note, icebreakers are used for the purpose of breaking the ice and getting a group warmed up to participate in lessons and activities that will include debrief questions. Typically an icebreaker does not need to be debriefed, however, when done intentionally, inserting a mini debrief or thought provoking question after an icebreaker can help to set up the rest of the lesson and tie the entire experience together in a more seamless fashion. These are some sample questions that can be used or modified to connect to the lesson that will follow.