

Spoken Introduction:

Networking doesn't happen because you meet someone, exchanging resumes or business cards, and then have occasional lunches. Networks happen because you share part of who you are, you really get to know others on deeper levels, and out of those relationships, you build community.

So that's what we're going to do today: not just network with each other, but build community.

We'll do that in two steps. In the first, we'll go through multiple rounds of one-on-one and small group interviewing, using questions that I'll provide. The questions fall into five broad categories.

Connection --- Identity --- Mission --- Inspiration --- Community

The questions start light, and go deeper with each round. We're asking you to take a few risks – don't just share your work titles with each other, but share your personal stories. These will be like lightning rounds—we'll go very fast, and change partners, in various combinations, for each round.

Interviewing Questions:

So let's start. The first round is called "connection," and has two lighter questions. Why? Because often when we first meet each other, we keep it light—and hopefully, fun. Here are the questions:

- Fill in the blank. "On a long summer weekend, one of my favorite things to do that refuels my spirits, brings me joy, or adds delight is _____."
- What's one talent you have that would surprise people?

Next is "identity"—because after meeting people, we start to share who we are:

- What are the five most common labels you use to describe yourself (male, Jewish, young, etc.)
- Who are the most important people in your life?
- In many ways, we are our ancestors—which of your grandparents are you most like, and why?

Next is "mission"—because our focus in life often follows identity:

- What's the cause or issue that you feel most passionately about?
- When did this passion emerge for you?

Next is "inspiration"—because it's not enough to have a mission; you need inspiration to keep going:

- Think about someone who has mentored you. What wisdom did they impart on you?
- The root of the word courage is cor – the Latin word for heart. Courage, in one of its earliest forms, means "to speak one's mind by telling all one's heart." Share about a time when you were truly courageous in this sense of the word.

And finally is "community"—because within community we find our truest self, and greatest purpose:

- When your heart is broken by the horrors or evils of the world, who or what helps you put it back together?
- What qualities describe the kind of community—neighborhood, city, region—that you want to live in?

After discussing, write your answers to this last question on post-its and post them on the newsprint around the room.