**Open Ended Questions Exercise – 10 Min**

**Objective:** Learn how to ask open ended question(s) to foster curiosity as a component of reducing conflict.

* Explain that as a group we will practice open ended questions and being curious. We want to understand: “*What is happening? Please tell me more?*” Ask the group for more examples of open ended questions. Distribute and review the *Open Ended Questions* handout.

**HOW:**

* Fishbowl exercise: Gather in a circle with the whole group.
* Have a real life experience in mind, and share a small part of it. i.e. “*Last week, something happened that made me very angry.*”
* The group then takes turns asking open ended questions and practicing curiosity, and you (the facilitator) gradually let out the full story.
* If someone asks a closed question, a facilitator just answers yes or no. In order to get to the full story, participants have to ask open ended questions.

**Open Ended Questions**

An open-ended question is designed to encourage a full, meaningful answer. It is the opposite of a closed-ended question, which encourages a short or single word answer. Open-ended questions also tend to be more objective and less leading than closed-ended questions. Open-ended questions typically begin with words such as “Why” and “How”, or phrases such as “Tell me about…” Often they are not technically a question, but a statement which implicitly asks for a response. Some examples are:

* Tell me, what do you think about that?
* What is it you like about the idea?
* Why would you suggest that?
* How do you plan to achieve that?
* What do you think will happen now?
* How would you change things?
* What do you want to happen?
* What’s causing the problem?
* What’s the best case scenario?

Now, try them yourself.

**Examples of how to begin an open-ended question:**

* What would happen if…
* I wonder…
* What do you think about…
* In what way…
* Tell me about…
* What would you do…
* How can we…
* How did you…
* How do you feel about…
* Why?
* What do you mean?
* What if…
* Explain more about…
* What do you think about…
* Can you elaborate on…
* Tell me more about…