

# Google

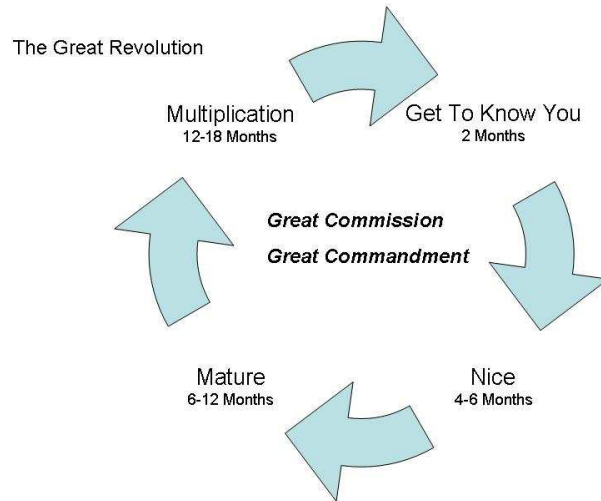
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## Casey's Blog...

Title: The hot college girl

Let me tell you about the hottest girl I have ever kissed. When I was in college, I went to lunch one day and my friend introduced me to a girl with a hat on. I didn't think anything about it. Later that night, outside my dorm room, I saw this girl in a car with my friend and I thought, "Wow, she is hot." Well, I introduced myself to her and she said that she had met me earlier that day in the lunch room. The girl with the hat became the girl on fire! I got her number later on that night and called her the next day to see if she would go on a date with me. Her name was Kacie Padron. She was a blast to hang out with, but I was scared and it was awkward to be with her alone because we were just *getting to know each other*. We dated for a couple of months and then I tried to kiss her. Well, that didn't work; she turned her head. I think she figured out that I had got my friend to fake like he was sick, which left me and Kacie alone long enough for me to try and kiss her. We moved beyond the "get to know you" stage to being really *nice* to each other. We were comfortable around each other, but our relationship wasn't mature by any means. Then about two years later, I took her to the North Georgia mountains and asked her to marry me. Well, she said, "yes!" I couldn't believe it. We went through six weeks of premarital counseling and worked on our relationship. We have been working on it ever since, trying to *mature* our love for each other. No kids yet, but maybe one day God will let us have them and *multiply*.

Why did I tell you mine and Kacie's story? Glad you asked... During this series we are going to be writing our "group stories". Every relationship has a story, and that is what we want for our groups during this series. We need to figure out where we are in our relationships with our group members. Every relationship has approximately four different phases: Get to know you, Nice, Mature, and Multiplication. In my relationship with Kacie, we are at the mature phase and, hopefully, will move on to multiply one day! Your groups are all in one phase or another. You will have the opportunity to find out where your group is. You say, "Why does that matter?" Well, you can't know where to go if you don't know where you are. The goal of a Growth Group is to walk your group through what we call the Great Revolution - helping your group grow through each phase of group life. If you don't take this seriously, you will harm yourself, your group, and God's mission for the earth. This isn't just another group initiative to check off the list; this speaks to the very core of group life. You have to have a goal and/or plan for your group. Just showing up and meeting isn't the goal. To help you visualize the Great Revolution I'm speaking of, take a look at the following chart:



You see that there are four phases, and you have to spend some time in each phase before moving on to the next phase. This isn't an exact science; it is more of an art. Your group will have time this week to work through where you are as a group so you can know how to move to the next phase. Understand that the ultimate goal is for your group to multiply. On your report this week, we will ask you to specify which phase your group is in. Please let us know so we can help you grow and mature as a group.

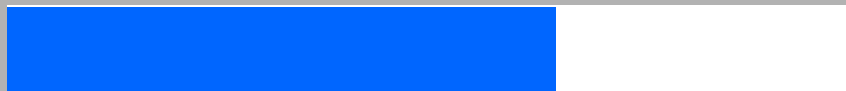


**The Search for Real Relationships**

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Transferring data...64% complete  
16 out of 25 leaders committed



## Objectives

- To have fun with the first two questions!
- To discover which phase your group is in the Great Revolution.
- To work on your group relationships through a biblical exercise.

## Facilitators' Guide

- After fifteen minutes, gather your group together to go through these questions. Open with prayer and move into the questions quickly. You will need time at the end of the night to watch a missions DVD

from our church's missions. It is an update for you and your group about how we are helping the world!

**1. What is the wildest prank you have ever been involved in?**

- Facilitation Tip: Do NOT ever read from these notes in a group setting. You can study and prepare, but it is a sin to read from these notes while leading the group. You can even have them with you, but please understand that people want to hear from you as their leaders. Don't ever say, "Here is what Casey or Renee said."
- This question is to be used as an Ice Breaker for your group. The wildest prank I have been involved in took place when I was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade in high school. Each year our school had a homecoming bonfire. We would burn it down on Thursday night and the whole school would come. It was a blast. Well, we were having a "Junior/Senior War" that year during homecoming week. So my buddies and I got a bright idea. We decided we would burn down the bonfire the night before it was supposed to be burnt down. We stole my friend's deaf grandfather's car and loaded up cans of gas in the trunk. We put gas all over the fire and lit it. You wouldn't believe how high the flame went. The explosion was huge. We ran, jumped in the car, and went home as fast as possible. I stayed up most of the night looking out my window for cops. We actually never got caught. The next day a lot of the senior girls were crying. Yep, that is my wildest prank.

**2. If you were invisible for a day, what would you do and why?**

- This is another ice breaker. Use it if you want to, but make sure you're keeping an eye on the time and feel free to skip over it if you need to.

**3. We are going to be talking about how to take the relationships in our small groups to a deeper level throughout this series. To do this, we have to understand where we are and what the next step is for our group. Circle the statement that best describes your group and share why you picked it.**

**a. We are just now getting to know each other**

**b. We are really nice to each other and like to hang out during group time**

**c. We have mature friendships where we are being 100% honest with each other and doing life outside of the group time.**

**d. We want others to experience what we have experienced by multiplying our group to others who don't have a group to be in.**

- This is where your group can really start to grow. People will probably answer at all different levels. Be aware: the point of this question is not to find out where each individual in your group is; the point is to find out where your group is as a whole. Your group is only as far along as the lowest denominator. So, if one person feels like the group is still in the "get to know you" phase, then that is where the group is. So work on this as a group to define where you are in the process.
- **Facilitation Tip: The answers above (a, b, c, d) are the four phases of group life. You have a great opportunity here to share with your group that you have a common goal. The goal is that you will**

**one day multiply. The more you talk about this openly the better the transition will be one day when you are able to reach that phase of the Great Revolution!**

- 4. From the list above, how can your group, in your opinion, move from one level of relationships to a deeper level as a group? (For instance, if you picked "a" how could you move to "b")**
- The goal here is to get people to share how they believe the relationships within the group can move from one phase to another. Really encourage people to give good suggestions here. Keep your ears open as the facilitator or leader. You will learn a lot about people during this question if you listen!
- 5. The Bible is full of examples of how to grow in our relationships with one another. Read each verse and answer the following questions.**

**\* Romans 12:10**

**I can be more devoted to the people in my group by...**

- This is a great exercise to get people thinking about how to biblically grow in relationships with one another. It doesn't get much deeper than this! Your group will not have an easy time talking about some of these topics. Just push them to talk about realistic ideas. For instance, I think a good answer for this question is something such as, "I can be more devoted to the people in my group by coming prepared and on time every week. I think if I do that, it will strengthen the group." This is simply an example. Prompt each member to answer these questions.
- You should get the jest of how this is to work. Let the group finish the following sentences after reading the scripture.

**\*Galatians 5:13**

**I can serve the people in my group by...**

**\*Ephesians 4:2**

**I can be patient with other group members by...**

**\*James 5:16**

**I can be more honest with the people in my group about...**

**The group can pray for me about...**

- This statement is to get your group praying for each other, so end the evening by doing just that. Have a time of prayer in which you challenge your group to pray for one another. Open up in prayer and ask others to jump in and pray sentence prayers for other group members. This prayer time should be for the group members, not anyone outside the group. This will help your group grow together in community.

**Remember to watch the missions DVD and pass out the sign-up card.**