

Dealing with Change Meeting

- Theme:** Dealing with Change
- Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-14
- Objective:** Thinking about how difficult (or easy) it can be to adjust to change and how God views change and is involved with change.
- Materials:** For the meeting you'll need...
- 1) Paper and pencils/markers/crayons/etc. (enough for everyone to complete the activity described below)
 - 2) Space to post a drawing you'll be referencing later. It has to be out of sight from everyone except the "scouts" you'll identify. (Maybe some place just outside the room/area you're in.)
 - 3) Attached three drawings (The fact that there's three is a secret, don't let anyone find out!)
 - 4) An accomplice
 - 5) Bibles

Opening Activity (5 minutes): *"Don't look now – I'm morphing"*

Have students form pairs (ideally with people they don't know very well).

Say: **Now that you have a partner, I want you to take just one minute to observe and remember as much as you can about your partner's appearance. Ready. Go.**

After a minute say: **Now I want each person to turn around, facing away from your partner. Without peeking, each person change five things about your appearance. Comb your hair, take your glasses off, etc... You have one minute. Ready. Go.**

After another minute say: **Now turn around and see if you can find all the changes your partner made.**

After a couple minutes bring everyone's attention back to the front. Ask: **Who got all five of their partner's changes?** Then say: **That's what change is like. Some of it is obvious like** (give an example of the biggest change someone made, i.e. un-tucking their shirt or taking their shoes off) **and some change is subtle like** (give an example of from the group i.e. one button undone or a shoe untied). **We're going to be looking at change today. How it affects us... and how God views change.**

The Great Sketch Mix-Up (30 – 40 minutes):

Divide participants in groups of four or five. Ask them to spread out around the room with space to sit in a circle where they'll draw their sketches. Distribute a couple pieces of paper and pencils/markers/crayons/etc. for each team with instructions not to begin drawing until told to do so.

[NOTE: You'll need the three distinctly different drawings included with this meeting plan.]

Say: **In just a little while each team is going to draw an *exact* replica of a sketch I've created. In order to do this, three members of your team will be invited to go into the next room and look at a prepared sketch. The three will go one at a time and only when I give permission. Each visit will help clarify the sketch design with the hope that your team will come up with something that looks exactly like the model sketch. Take a minute and select the three "scouts" from your team and decide who'll go first, second and third (allow time).**

Say: **Now that you've selected your three scouts we're about to begin. The team that comes closest to the model sketch wins fabulous prizes...or at least the undying admiration of your peers! Each scout gets only one visit to the model sculpture so look carefully.**

Invite the first scout to go look at the posted sketch (Give them about 10 seconds). (REMEMBER – *never let on that there are three different sketches!*). Allow 1-2 minutes for the teams to work unless they seem to be getting done sooner. Have an accomplice secretly switch to sketch #2 as the teams work. Before any team can finish, send the second scout out. Allow another 1-2 minutes unless they seem to be finishing. Have your accomplice then privately switch to sketch #3 and then send the third scouts. Allow up to 5 minutes after the third visit. Observe behaviors of the teams so you can comment later.

After time is up, call time and see if anyone has a finished sketch.

Say: **In your group talk about what happened during this activity (allow time for them to share). After a couple of minutes, ask for feedback from the group discussion.**

Say: **Talk with your group about how you felt during this activity (allow time). Please share some of what you've been talking about with the rest of us.**

Say: **I have a confession to make. I'd like (accomplice) to bring out the model sketch...all three of them! That's right; each of your three scouts saw a completely different drawing. The sketch was constantly changing.**

Ask: **Now that you know the secret, what do you think about the activity and how it went for your group (allow time). Get feedback from the groups.**

Ask: **How is this activity like dealing with change (allow time)? Get feedback.**

Scripture (15 – 20 minutes):

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

Ask: (This question can be asked of small groups or the whole group at your discretion.) **What do these verses from Ecclesiastes tell us about change?**

If they are not still in their small groups, have them get back into groups of 4-5.

Ask: **What kinds of changes are people in your group or in the world around us dealing with right now?**

In their small groups have them re-read: Ecclesiastes 3:14.

Ask: **What distinction is made between us and God? What does this tell us about how God views the types of changes we're dealing with?**

Summarize (5 minutes):

Say: **Sometimes we see change coming and sometimes we don't. A presidential election is an example of a change we can see coming. A worldwide financial crisis is an example of a change that maybe we didn't see coming. One thing that's for certain is that in this life we will always experience change. Think back to the activity and remember how you felt as the sculptures changed and you kept getting different descriptions from each scout (recap some of the emotions and thoughts shared earlier). Let's face it, change can mess with us. It can reorient our priorities, challenge our relationships, and threaten our security. In Ecclesiastes we find the assurance that, although things will always change for us, what God does will endure forever. In times of change our only true hope is found in hanging on tight to the One who never, ever changes.**





