

Old Men and Their Coffee

By Lee Yates



What is the secret to getting along with others—teasing and talking politics and faith, while remaining friends? You won't find the answer in mainstream media, but you might find some answers with old men who drink coffee. Somewhere in your town, there are old men who meet to drink coffee. Find them and discover their secrets!

For
Young Adult

Season
Summer

Needed
Money for a cup of coffee or beverage of your choice

Prepare in Advance

Find out when and where a group of older men gather casually for coffee. Grandparents or older people at church probably can tell you where. Otherwise, check a fast food restaurant or local café. You probably won't find a group like this gathering at a fancy or trendy place.

Activity Plan

1. Buy a cup of coffee and sit near a group of older men who appear to be old friends. Don't try to join their circle, but sit close enough to listen in.
2. Say a short prayer. Here are some words if you need them:

God, help me to listen, to learn, and to appreciate the wisdom of fellowship. Amen.
3. Pay attention for the following aspects of their conversation:
 - How do group members tease one another?
 - What topics seem important to them?
 - How do they handle difficult or controversial topics?
 - How do they respond to disagreement or conflict?
 - How do they affirm each other?
 - How do they express care for each other?
4. Spend some time reflecting on how the relationships you observed seem to reflect or conflict with Christian values.
5. Try to remember some of the issues and needs you heard them discuss. Sometime later today, say a prayer for these men.
6. If you have time, come back occasionally and see if you can join their conversation.

