

WORKING AS A TEAM

Session 4

90 minutes

OBJECTIVE:

Youth will begin to solidify as a group through team building activities that will inform the creation of a group contract in Session 5.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION:

- Write the names of four different types of teams (e.g., sports team, business team, cast of a play, family, superhero team) on slips of paper (one team per paper).
- Butcher paper, tape, and markers.
- Prepare two signs, one that reads “Strongly Agree” and one that reads “Strongly Disagree.” Post these on opposite walls or sides of the room for the Community Builder activity.

I. OPENING: ATTENDANCE, SNACKS,

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AGENDA OVERVIEW (10 MINUTES)

Opening Circle Statement (Around the World): Name a time when you relied on someone else.

II. COMMUNITY BUILDER (15 MINUTES)

Place signs saying “Strongly Agree” and “Strongly Disagree” on opposite walls. Emphasize that there is no right or wrong answer. Have students stand in the center of the room and read a list of statements. Tell the students to line up against the sign they most agree with – they can also stand in the middle. Begin with simple questions, such as, “Pizza is my favorite food,” or “I think grades are important for my future.” Gradually move to deeper topics by using questions like, “I feel safe walking home after dark,” or “I think school rules are

Team Work



enforced fairly.” Debrief: Talk about different perspectives on the issues. Discuss how this learning experience could be helpful in working together as a team.

III. DEFINING AND EXPLORING TEAM WORK (10 MINUTES)

Brainstorm the meaning of team work and the characteristics of effective teams. On the board or butcher paper, write the list of characteristics youth name for the group to refer to later. Prompt by asking: Why does teamwork matter? When is team work important? When is it not so important?

Facilitation Tip:

Allow participants to direct the discussion about their team through their own suggestions. Encourage fun and creativity in their group presentations.

WORKING AS A TEAM**Session 4****90 minutes****IV. TEAM PRESENTATIONS (40 MINUTES)**

Separate participants into four small groups. Assign each group a type of team (see Materials and Preparation) and provide each group with a piece of blank butcher paper. In groups, have youth talk about their assigned team and determine which characteristics of effective teamwork that team does well and what characteristics they lack. Then have them brainstorm ways their type of team could work better. Have each group prepare a short presentation of its findings. Remind the youth to refer to the list of brainstormed characteristics but also not to limit themselves to that list.

Regroup to share presentations with the whole group. Make sure every member of each team participates in the presentations. Leave time for questions. Have team members add to their list based on questions and comments from the group.

V. DEBRIEF (10 MINUTES)

Discuss how teambuilding fits into your program. What about the class or program cultivates a good team? What could the program do to build a better team? What could the participants as individuals do to create a better team atmosphere? This debrief provides time for informal group evaluation of the program or project thus far. Allow comments about the program or project to be both positive and negative, if appropriate.

Personal reflection opportunity: How are you a reliable member of the teams you are a part of? In your family? Your groups of friends? Your faith groups? In what ways could you be more reliable?

VI. CLOSING (5 MINUTES)

Closing Circle Statement (Around the World):
My greatest strength as a team player is...

