

Sharing our gifts

**Equipment**

For each group: 4 matches, 1 A4 size piece of cardboard, 2 rubber bands, 1 drawing pin

General equipment: pieces of old material that can be used as blind folds, gags and to tie a hand behind the back. One piece of material per person.

Something the can be given as a prize to the winning team.

**Preparation**

Divide your youth group into smaller groups of four people. In each group each person has a disability:

* 1 person is blind (they have a blind fold)
* 1 person is mute (they have a gag – loose enough that they can still breathe!)
* 1 person doesn’t have a left hand (tie this behind their back)
* 1 person doesn’t have a right hand (tie this behind their back)

Note: that you can also work in groups of 3 and have just one person with an arm tied behind their back if you group divides better into groups of three.

**Exercise**

Using the equipment provided (matches, cardboard etc) design something useful that can be used in the kitchen (eg knife, fork, plate, table etc). There is a prize for the best design.

**Questions**

1. The blind people: how did you feel not being able to see what was going on? What was it like letting the others move your hands?
2. The mute people: What was the most effective way of communicating? Did you have to resort to speaking? Imagine how difficult it must be for a person in that situation permanently. What strategies would you develop to cope?
3. One handed people: What contribution did you make to your group? Was it easy or hard? Did you feel clumsy or frustrated?

**Questions**

So what happened? Each of you found that you had to rely on the others for help. Each person in your group needed the others – you couldn’t make the item on your own. The person who couldn’t speak needed someone else’s gift in the group to help them communicate. Can you see the same kind of relationships in your own life? Sometimes we are so focused on our own world that we need others to see and tell us what is going on. God gives us our gifts and they are unique to us, but we also need the gifts of others to grow.

Let’s compare this to a rugby team. They need the full back to kick the goals. Likewise if you are building a house there is no point in asking the painter to put in the plumbing. You need the gifts of each trade to complete the house just like all members of the rugby team need to play if they are going to have any chance of winning the game!

Let’s remember that our gifts are important, necessary and that they complement each other.

**Discussion topic (optional)**

You might like to flow into a discussion about how members can share their gifts in the parish community eg training for a ministry such as a minister of the Word, Eucharistic Minister, joining a music group etc.

Prayer to conclude the session:

Loving God we give thanks for the opportunity to gather tonight as the [insert name of your group] Group.

We are thankful for the blessings of our combined abilities and talents. We ask you God to be with us as we use these gifts to create joy and fulfilment in our lives. We open our hearts and minds to the amazing opportunities that lie ahead and we ask you to help us share these gifts for benefit of others in our community.

Amen.