

Activity 1 | The importance of a team

Session location: everybody seated around the table. Participants are asked to sit in alphabetical order by first name.

Ice-breaker

Creating a sense of unity among the individuals who make up a team can result in a surplus of goals completed more efficiently and a wide variety of new ideas bubbling to the surface. This activity is designed to show that even if one person doesn't participate then there will be challenges as we won't be able to complete the task.

Picture Pieces Game

Before starting we will slice a photo of an image of a symbol (eg statue or stained glass window) from your community. In the example we are using a statue from Christ the King Parish, Owairaka. Cut the image into a collection of pieces that are numerically the same as the number of members of the group you are working with. Pass out one piece to each person and instruct the individuals to not share their piece of the image with the others around them.

(5 mins to draw their part of the image – focus on main shapes/lines – rather than the inner details)

Refer Activity 1: Photo Frame for template if you would like to use this image.



Once each person has a puzzle piece, pass out felt pens and sheets of paper ten times the size of each puzzle piece. Ask the participants to recreate their section of the image on the paper in front of them and emphasise the importance of striving to accurately represent the section of the image that they have been given. They should make their interpretation of their part of the puzzle approximately 10 times the size of the puzzle piece they have received. When finished, instruct the individuals to arrange the enlarged pieces together until they have deduced what the overarching image is. If there is one piece that will clearly identify what the picture is immediately then manage the process that this person places their part of the image down towards the end of the puzzle coming together.

(Note: Keep the image used relatively simple as we don't want them to spend too long drawing nor make it too hard to put the image together).

(5 mins)

Debrief points:

- The contribution of every person is a necessary part of the big picture.
- Without each piece of the puzzle, the completed image would be fragmented and meaningless.
- How does this relate to your own leadership group? (Every leader has a part to play but not every leader needs to play every part).

(5 mins)

Activity 2 | Gifts

As leaders we often get asked to help others resolve issues. This can be a challenge when our own group is going pretty well. In our ice-breaker we saw the importance of everybody contributing to the activity in order to be able to complete the task and it is the same for groups. We need to have people with a variety of gifts and attributes in order to make a group work well together.

In this next activity each of you is going to take the role of one of the leaders of a fictitious group. I want to assure you that this is not what I see happening in your group and the characters are not from any other group – it is all made up. It can be really helpful to have a go at solving imaginary problems before you get caught up in a real challenge. We'll start by hearing a short statement from each of you about your involvement in the group.

Refer Schedule 1. Each person will have their character only. Check that participants are still sitting in alphabetical order. Then invite David to start. (Approx: 5-6 minutes to read)

Now that we have heard from all the leaders in this group. I'd like you to take 2 minutes to focus on the character that you are playing.

What is one gift of this person?

What is one area that they need to work on?

Write these down on the A4 sheet of paper that you have in front of you.

Sometimes we can be quite short-sighted about a situation. In this activity what I'd really like you to do is to be open to looking at issues as an opportunity to work outside the box. Spread out in front of you are some possibilities cards on one side and some strategies cards on the other side of the table. I'd like you to take one card from each group of cards and then think out how the person you are playing the role of could respond to those cards. You have 5-10 minutes to complete this part of the activity and then I'll ask you to share back in 3 minutes per person so please focus on sharing two or three key points.

If there is time invite discussion about how this relates to your own leadership group?

This is something that they could journal about.

One thing that we often encourage is an accountability buddy- somebody that you trust from the group. You share with that person and they make you accountable by checking in that you have done what you set out to do.

Debrief:

- How many gifts can we identify in the group of people gathered as leaders?
- Which of these is the most important gift? [None – we are all different – the idea is that work together sharing the gifts that we have for the common good]
- Why didn't the movie night happen? What could have been done differently to make the movie night happen? [There wasn't a plan. It could help if one or two people worked together to make a plan or the group as a whole could make a plan].
- Do we need to put in as much planning for a short activity/standard Sunday youth group meeting as what we would for a big event like a movie fundraiser? [Preparation will always make the activity/event run smoother. Even for a small gathering it is good to have a simple plan and a backup plan if your numbers attending (or some other element) changes eg you are doing an outdoor activity and the weather is bad]]

- Many people say that ministry with young people is one of the hardest ministries possible. Why do you think that is? [variable nature of ministry, young people are transient and have lots of other options for using their time, for many there is less of a commitment to their faith than older people]
- We often say that there are three things that it takes to do ministry well. They all begin with R – do you know them? [Relationship, Relationship, Relationship]. What is the difference between authentic vs superficial relationships? Can't be BBFs with everyone but it is necessary to be genuine in forming relationships with the youth. What can you identify about the relationships in this scenario?
- Some other points to touch on if there is time...
 - The importance of including those you are mentoring (eg developing leaders) in the 'planning' stage. Being aware that they are unique individuals with their own strengths and talents so it is essential not to try to create them in a 'mini me' or refer to them as such.
 - Important to include those who are mentoring you at milestone points so that
- 'Phone call' planning vs. sit down planning for 30 min – sit down together always wins
- The importance of training new leaders (walking side by side) to ensure continuity and shared knowledge/ guidance.