

Rite Family Activity

Objective

Participants will perform an activity that forces them to divide their attention between two tasks.

Materials

One poker chip, penny, or similar small object per participant

Copy of the *Rite Family Activity Story* for the facilitator

Instructions

Ask the participants to stand (or sit) in a circle close enough to reach and touch the participant across from them. (If you have too many participants for a large circle, make smaller ones.)

Distribute one chip/penny/other object to each participant.

Tell them you're going to read a story.

When they hear the word "right," they're to pass the chip/penny/object to the person on their right.

When they hear the word "left," they're to pass the chip/penny/object to the person on their left.

Tell them you won't repeat or stop reading.

Begin reading the *Rite Family Vacation* story.

Start slowly, then gradually speed up. Pay no attention to the ensuing chaos. Keep reading.

Process and Reflection

Ask the following:

How did the activity feel and what did you observe?

- How successful were you?
- How did the activity illustrate responsibility? (Someone will usually say that the person next to them was responsible to get the object to him or her. Ask where that places the responsibility – on that person's shoulders?)
- Tell them that as leaders, these core values are about us as individuals, not about what others do.
- Ask a participant to reframe the comment so that he or she accepts the responsibility: "I was responsible to take/pass the object to the next person." (This is a critical nuance, as explained in the Truth and Trustworthiness module. It's important that the youths understand that the responsibility to conduct themselves appropriately is on *their* shoulders. This is about demonstrating responsibility to others.)

- How did the activity reflect citizenship? (Examples: “We all had to work together.” “If one person quit, the activity wouldn’t work.” “People were patient and helpful to those who dropped their object or didn’t have one.”)
- What about the facilitator reading the story? (Lead them to say you made the task more difficult by speeding up, ignoring the chaos, and continuing to read.)

How does the activity apply to your everyday life?

- Ask the students how it feels to collaborate on a project that requires everyone’s participation.
- Ask them to comment on the leadership role of the facilitator. (Example: Sometimes we’re so preoccupied with getting through an agenda, getting things done our way, moving through a project, that we don’t take responsibility to observe, listen, or care for those we’re leading.)
- As leaders, what strategies can we use to create an environment where the experience, process, and outcome can be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Rite Family Activity Story

One weekend the Rite family went camping. The first thing they realized was someone would have to be left at home because there wasn’t enough room in their tiny car for everybody. Father Rite reluctantly chose Aunt Linda. Shocked, the woman left the house in a rage, saying, “It’ll be a right cold day before I return!”

The family’s four children –Tommy, Susan, Timmy, and Shelly – climbed into the car. Unfortunately, someone had left a trash can in the street that blocked them. Tommy was told to move the trash can, but he took so long that they almost left him, too.

They hadn’t driven a block before Mother Rite wondered if she’d left the stove on. Father Rite told her not to worry; he’d checked the stove and it was off. As they turned the corner, everyone started to worry about other things they might have left undone.

When they stopped for gas, Father Rite discovered that he’d left his wallet at home. Timmy was told to run right home to get it. After Timmy left, Susan said she thought she was going to be sick. She got out of the car, and Mother Rite left to comfort her. Shelly wanted to watch Susan get sick, so she left, too. Father Rite remained with Tommy.

With all of this going on, Father Rite decided it wasn’t the right time to go camping, so he gathered up the family, turned left at the corner, and headed right back home. When they arrived, he said, “I wish the Rite family had never left the house!”