

Module 9 v Activity 8 v COOPERATION

Conflict Resolution Activity

1. Divide into groups of three. Each person contributes 25 cents to the group; the 75 cents is placed in the center of the group.
2. The group decides how to divide the money between two people. Only two people can receive money. The group has no more than ten minutes to make this decision. The group cannot use any sort of "chance" procedure, such as drawing straws or flipping a coin, to decide which two persons get what amounts of money. Side agreements, such as buying a soft drink for the person left out, are not allowed. It is all right for one person to end up with all the money. A clear decision must be reached as to how the money is to be divided up between no more than two people.
3. The purpose of the lesson is to get as much money for yourself as you can. Try to convince the other two members of your triad that you should receive all the money. Tell them you are broke, poor, smarter than they are, or more deserving of the money. Tell them you will put it to better use or will give it to charity. If the other two people make an agreement to divide the money between themselves, offer one of them a better deal. For example, if they agree to split the money 50/50, tell one person that you will let her have 50 cents and will take only 25 cents if she will agree to split the money with you.
4. A majority rules. Whenever two people make a firm agreement to split the money a certain way, the decision is made. Be sure, however, to give the third person a chance to make one of the two a better deal.
5. As soon as a decision is made, write your answers to these questions.
 - ◆ What were my feelings during the decision making?
 - ◆ How did I act during the decision making? What are the ways I handled the situation? Did I give up? Did I try to persuade others to my point of view? Did I try to take the money by force?
 - ◆ How would my conflict style be described during the decision making?
6. In your group of three, give each other feedback. Describe how you saw each other's actions during the decision making.
7. In class, discuss the following questions.
 - ◆ What were the feelings present in each group during the decision making?
 - ◆ How did members act in each group during the decision making?
 - ◆ What conflict styles were present in each group during the decision making?
 - ◆ What did we learn about conflict from the lesson?

Think about this:

The lesson on taking the money was set up so that you would have to negotiate. Did you:

- ___ Stay silent during the whole thing and let the other two people divide the money?
- ___ Try to force the other two people to let you have at least half the money?
- ___ Try to give the money away to the other two people to make sure they didn't feel bad or get angry?
- ___ Seek a compromise where somehow everyone would get his or her money back, even if it meant violating the rules for the lesson?
- ___ Try to think of a logical reason as to which person (or persons) should have the money?