

Activity: Session 9 Prejudice

Objective: The objective of this session is to explore what factors contribute to prejudice and how being prejudice can damage relationships and hurt feelings.

Materials Needed

- Enough candy for the whole group; wrap half the candy in a box with shiny wrapping paper and a bow, wrap the other half with plain paper or newspaper and a string.

Sign In and Welcome

Mentors should greet their protégés and show them where to sign in.

Definitions

- **Prejudice** -A judgment or opinion formed beforehand or without thoughtful examination of the facts, issues or arguments, or hatred of or dislike for a particular group, race, religion, etc.

Group Activity:

Instructions: Place two boxes of candy on a table.

- Tell the group they have received these gifts but they are only allowed to keep one of them. Have each mentor and protégé write on a piece of paper which box they choose. Tally the votes for each box and announce which box won. Open the contents of both boxes and show the group.
- Explain that despite the difference in outward appearances the contents are the same.
- Distribute the candy.

Introduce Topic and Mini Discussion

- Put a sign reading "Prejudice" on the box wrapped in newspaper. Ask group why they chose the box they did. Ask who was willing to "take a chance" on the plain box and why they did that. Allow for discussion.
- Ask protégés to help define "Prejudice". Allow for a few responses then restate the definition above.
- Explain: Prejudice is making an opinion or having an idea about someone or something without having all the facts. Prejudice can be based on looks, religious beliefs, opinions and many other things. Is that similar to the way we judged the boxes? How? Allow for discussion.

One-on-One Time

Mentors and protégés continue discussing prejudice and why it is important not to prejudge someone.

Wrap up Discussion

Discuss in a group how each person could take the challenge to get out of their own comfort zone and make a friend with someone of a different race, ethnicity, or culture. Let the group know they will be sharing their experiences at the next meeting.

Optional Activities/Discussions

Story Telling-

“The Maligned Wolf “

Tell the story of The Maligned Wolf and discuss how it relates to prejudice. How is the wolf prejudged? Do the other characters in the story let him explain his actions; do they try to get to know him?

As an additional option: take another fairy tale or popular story and tell it from the other character’s perspective. For example: Cinderella as told by the “ugly sisters”, Snow White as told by the wicked witch.

One-on-One Questions

Review and discuss the following questions.

- What does prejudice mean to you? Explain.
- Have you ever looked at someone who was different from you, (e.g. didn’t dress like you, talked differently) and decide not to get to know that person? Why?
- Have you been on the receiving end where someone prejudged you? How did it make you feel?
- How do you think we can stop ourselves or other people from prejudging someone before getting to really know him or her?
- If people are prejudiced against certain groups or individuals, what negative things can happen?
- What are the benefits of looking beyond looks, race, or religion and taking the time to get to know someone different from ourselves? Explain.