

THE ROPE OF FRIENDSHIP

A Symbolic Representation of Friendship

Purpose of this exercise

- ✓ *To celebrate unity and friendship in a group.*
- ✓ *To build up closeness and team spirit*
- ✓ *To foster creativity*

Requirements

- ✓ A strong nylon rope of about 10 yards for every group of 12 participants. Or one of about 20 yards for about 24 if participants.
- ✓ Groups of no more than 24 participants.

Instructions for the Participants and for the Moderator

- ✓ Although we are many, we form one single group. We have to learn to work, pray and even live, not as single individuals, but as an united group of loving friends..
- ✓ In silence, for e minutes, let each one of you figure out how the group can use this rope to symbolically, express friendliness, unity and togetherness in our group.
- ✓ *After the 3 minutes are over*, ask the participants, in turns, to suggest the different ways they found how to use this rope express friendliness unity, support and oneness in our group.
- ✓ *After they shared their suggestions*, ask the participants to put into practice their suggestions.

Moderator,

Observe what is happening in the grou:

Who takes the leadership?

Who commands authority?

Who is creative?

Who participates most?

Who is passive?

Who is helpful?

Who is obstructive? Etc

These observations will help you for the sharing session that will follow and later on also, how to deal with the members of your group in particular.

Just for your information. Things participants have done with the rope in previous occasions

- 1. They tied all their hands together like the spikes of a wheel.*
- 2. They strung all their right hands like a garland.*
- 3. They tied their feet together as a sign of never getting away from each other.*
- 4. They rested the rope on their shoulders and entwined their arms.*
- 5. They sat on the ground in a circle with the rope resting on their backs and leaning on it, thus balancing each other's weight in the process.*

Personal Work: Short Questionnaire for the Participants.

Replies may be put down in writing.

1. What's the symbolism of the game?
2. What does the rope represent?
3. What have you learned from this exercise?
4. What significance has the game for us and our group?
5. What were your feelings while playing the game?
6. How can we foster friendliness, unity, cooperation and participation in our group and in our future activities?
7. What will your contribution be, to make our group a group of happy friends?

Group Sharing cum Mini-input by the Moderator

Sharing their replies with the group..

Discussion and interaction on the replies to the questionnaire above.

Compile a list of possible means and ways on how to foster friendliness and unity in our group

Input:

The Invisible Rope of Friendship.

- Friendship is not so much to be seen or to be spoken of, but to be felt. .
- Friendliness has to be handled carefully, it's delicate. It should never break.
- It keeps us together. Friendliness makes "US" a big "ONE" out of many small ones
- Unity not only adds one to another, but multiplies one by all the rest.

Comment on your observations on the proceedings of the game and session

Offer your hints and remarks on how to improve performance and efficiency within the group

Point out the strong points you discovered in individuals during "The Rope of Friendship" game.

Prayer Session.

You may crown the exercise with a prayer session.

Build the prayer service on the theme of "The rope of Friendship". For the prayer you may use the rope again.

Let all sit on the ground, their backs resting against the rope as it passes under each one's arms. .

Make them aware of the tension of the rope supporting the whole group, literally making them feel one.

Be aware that without a rope of friendship, tensions, misunderstandings and selfishness will break even the most brilliant and promising groups .