Module 2

The Wright Family Activity

Topic Area
Communication and responsibility

Concept
Certain skills for good communication are more important than others. One of the most important of these is the skill of listening. This activity will show the importance of listening.

Materials Needed

1. The Wright Family Story
2. A button, a playing card or some other small item for each person in the group

Activity
Have your entire group stand and form a circle with members close enough so they can pass an item easily. Give each person in the circle a penny, card or some other small item that can be passed easily from hand to hand. Tell the group that you are going to read a story, and every time the youth hear any word that sounds like “right,” they are to pass the item in their hand to the person on their right. If they hear “left,” then they should pass the item to their left.

Start reading the story slowly so they have a chance to catch on to what you want them to do. After a few passes, stop the story and ask them how they are doing. Check to see that everyone has an item in his or her hand. If your group is typical, some will have two or three items and others will not have any. Have them redistribute the items so everyone has one again. Now continue to read the story, getting faster as you go. Discuss at the end of the story.

Life With The Wright Family

One day the Wright family decided to take a vacation. The first thing they had to decide was who would be left at home since there was not enough room in the Wright family car for all of them. Mr. Wright decided that Aunt Linda Wright would be the one left at home. Of course, this made Aunt Linda Wright so mad that she left the house immediately, yelling, “It will be a right cold day before I return.”

The Wright family now bundled up the children, Tommy Wright, Susan Wright, Timmy Wright and Shelly Wright, and got in the car and left. Unfortunately, as they turned out of the driveway, someone had left a trash can in the street so they had to turn right around and stop the car. They told Tommy Wright to get out of the car and move the trash can so they could get going. Tommy took so long that they almost left him in the street.

Once the Wright family got on the road, Mother Wright wondered if she had left the stove on. Father Wright told her not to worry; he had checked the stove and she had not left it on. As they turned right at the corner, everyone started to think about other things that they might have left undone.

No need to worry now; they were off on a right fine vacation. When they arrived at the gas station, Father Wright put gas in the car and then discovered that he had left his wallet at home. Timmy Wright ran home to get the money that was left behind. After Timmy had left, Susan Wright started to feel sick. She left the car saying that she had to throw up. This, of course, got Mother Wright’s attention and she left the car in a hurry. Shelly Wright wanted to watch Susan get sick, so she left the car, too. Father Wright was left with Tommy Wright, who was playing a game in the backseat.

With all of this going on, Father Wright decided that this was not the right time to take a vacation, so he gathered up all of the family and left the gas station as quickly as he could. When he arrived home, he turned left into the driveway and said, “I wish the Wright family had never left the house today! Right?”
The Wright Family Activity

Discussion Ideas for the Group (choose a few of these):

› What was happening during this activity?
› What made the activity difficult to accomplish?
› What impact does what other people do have on your ability to keep up with the story?
› What would have made the activity easier to accomplish?
› How hard was it to listen and pass the objects at the same time?
› How much of the story can you remember?
› What can this activity tell us about communication?
› How hard were you concentrating during the activity?
› How hard were the people on either side of you concentrating?
› How does this level of concentration compare with what you do when someone is talking to you?
› Describe a situation you have had where someone was not really listening to you when you were telling them something. How did that make you feel?

Reference