

Value Auction

Activities to Establish Community

ICEBREAKERS AND TEAM BUILDERS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES

- For participants to identify their core values
- To explore how these values affect their personal and professional lives

MATERIALS


- Two to three index cards per participant
- Markers
- Blue painter's tape
- Fake money, at least \$100 for each participant

SETUP

- None

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Ask** participants: "**What are some important values you live by at home?**" Listen to a few responses.
2. Explain that today **the group will establish a set of values** to focus on.
3. The group will start by **brainstorming some values** that are individually important to them; these will inform what is important to the group.
4. **Pass out two to three index cards** to each participant.
5. Ask each participant to **write one personal value** on each index card. They should write the value **directly in the middle of the card** and as **large** as possible. (*You should also write a few values.*)
6. **Collect** each card and **remove any values that are duplicated**. You should have two to three cards per participant, so you may need to **add** a few unique value cards if you are short. **Tape** the cards to a wall or flat surface that is visible to all participants.
7. **Pass out \$100 in fake money** to each participant and announce that they will now go **shopping** for group values.

CONTINUED 

Value Auction continued

8. Explain that each person should **browse through all the values** on the wall and decide which ones are most important to them. When the bidding starts, each person can **bid on as many different values** as they want until they have won a value; they can no longer bid after that.
9. Remind participants that **they do not have to bid on their own value**; they can bid on someone else's they feel is more important for the group than the ones they wrote down.
10. Explain that the **bids will increase in \$5 or \$10 increments**. If participants find a value that is extremely important to them, they can **combine** their money with someone else and bid together.

11. **Start** the auction by auctioning each value one at a time. *For example, you can say, "Okay, we're going to start the bid at \$5, and we only bid in increments of \$5. Once you run out of cash you can no longer bid. Here we go... the first value is 'love'! Do I hear \$5? Great, \$5 for love. Do I hear \$10? Yes!! \$10, do I hear \$15?" and so on until you get to "Going once, going twice, sold! For \$15 to the lady in yellow."*
12. **Collect** the money and **hand** the index card to the winning bidder.
13. Once all the money has been spent or each person has purchased one value, **close** the auction.
14. **Collect** the values to use in the next activity, **VALUES INTO ACTION**.

DEBRIEF

- How many of you were able to buy your first-choice value?
- How did you decide which values to bid on?
- How do these values apply to your life?
- Based on the bidding process, which values are most important to this group?