

Faith community

Objective

This exercise is aimed at introducing people to each other, by way of helping them to explore what they believe their “faith community” is. It’s an excellent “first evening” kind of exercise, and can be used with multiple age groups, and in inter-generational settings.

Materials

Enough Legos (or other building material) to have a huge pile for people to choose from. In particular, include:

- flat green building plates (these come in several sizes, most will work)
- lots of different kinds of people (you can purchase Lego people in community sets)
- a large assortment of basic building blocks

Procedures

1. Invite everyone to spend some time in silence, thinking about the images “faith community” evokes for them, when they hear that word. With very young children, you might use different language (“church” “synagogue”).
2. Ask people to join in groups of 2-3 (figure out in advance if you want families to work together, or if you’d rather have people work with people they don’t already know).
3. Given people 30 minutes to build a sculpture of “faith community” using the building materials you’ve made available.
4. Invite everyone to share with each other what they’ve built. Keep in mind the following:
 - if you’re using this as an introductory exercise within the same community (that is, everyone is from the same church or synagogue), make sure you introduce the process by telling people that there are no “right” images, and no single image will be able to represent the whole
 - if you’re using this with a large number of people, begin in smaller groups (so that dyads will join together to create a quartet), and ask people to keep track of things that engage them, and things that surprise them
 - you can do this exercise in distributed settings by asking people to take an image of their sculpture and upload it to a shared site, along with commentary, by a specific date
5. Invite people to talk about what was hard about the exercise (could they build what they imagined?) and invite them to talk about what they learned.