

THE ULTIMATE MIXER

by Karen Ceckowski

PURPOSE

To show the importance of each member and to find out something new and different about each participant.

PREPARATION

Supplies to gather (one for each participant): plastic cups, lunch sacks and napkins. Also, one electric blender, felt-tip marker, three cutting knives, a can opener, three pitchers, four bowls and a hair dryer.

Food items needed (all amounts based on a group of 10): three apples, three oranges, six bananas, a large can of frozen strawberries, three cans of fruit juice nectar, two cans of frozen fruit juice concentrate, a large can of pineapple juice (or one whole pineapple).

Also have on hand a Bible and 3 x 5 cards.

Label the lunch bags in consecutive number. Label each 3 x 5 card with a corresponding lunch bag number.

Assign food preparation to each member of the group by writing tasks on the separate 3 x 5 cards. The object is to get all fruit peeled and cut, juices mixed, frozen berries defrosted and all items in a bowl.

The cards can be prepared in the following manner:

- Card number one: Peel and cut one apple, one orange and one

banana. Put in the bowl.

- Card number two: Peel and cut one orange and two bananas. Put in the bowl.

- Card number three: Mix three cans of fruit nectar.

- Card number four: Defrost two cans of frozen strawberries.

Place the numbered cards in the same-numbered sack. Randomly fill the bags with food items and utensils. Do not match the 3 x 5 cards with the proper food items. The object of this mixer is to make the members depend upon one another to finish assigned tasks. Be creative in your preparations.

- If the 3 x 5 card says to peel two apples, put a hair dryer and banana in the sack.

- Freeze the bananas and oranges the night before to make peeling a chilling experience.

- Use exotic fruits such as mangoes or kiwi.

- Assign a youth to collect all fruit peelings and make a centerpiece.

Prepare a work area. Youth can work at tables or on plastic bags on the floor.

OPENING

Introduce the Ultimate Mixer and explain that it will require following the basic instructions in 30 minutes. Before distributing the sacks, outline the rules:

- Each of you will be given a

paper sack. Don't look inside until the mixer begins.

- Inside the bag is a 3 x 5 card with instructions. Follow these carefully.

- In each bag are items that may or may not help you to complete the task. Other people may have the items you need. If you need to ask for an item, it's all right to do so, but you must tell the person something about yourself he or she does not already know.

- Are there any questions? If not . . .

- Begin.

THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

Call time after 30 minutes. Ask each youth to bring his or her items to one of the tables. Get the

blender and cups. Take portions of the different fruits and juices and fill the blender. As you do this, explain that each person needed others to perform the tasks and as a group you need them to perform this final step—to work together. The Ultimate Mixer is now to take place. Turn on the blender and mix all ingredients.

RESPONSE (OR CLOSING)

Pour portions of the drink for each youth. Sit together as the youth enjoy the drink. Ask them to talk about facts they learned about other group members.

Close by having the youth read aloud Romans 12:4-5 and Hebrews 10:25. Discuss how the verses show the importance of others in our lives.