

# People Puzzle Groups

For the following experiment in communication, divide your large group into groups of five. (Pick helpers if there are people left over—the ones you think would get the least out of the experiment.) Each person in each group of five receives an envelope containing different shapes of the same color. Use construction paper to make shapes out of these colors: red, blue, black, yellow, green (see instructions below). Each envelope contains shapes in one of these colors. The object is for each group to form five rectangles, all of equal length and width, using the pieces from all the envelopes in that particular group. There are three steps in putting together the puzzles:

1. No speaking. The only thing you can do is offer one of your pieces of the puzzle to a member of your group. You cannot indicate your need for a particular piece. You may only take a piece if it is offered to you (5-10 minutes).
2. No speaking. You can now, however, indicate your need for a particular piece (5-10 minutes).
3. You may speak.

4. (optional) You may help another group finish.

After all the groups have completed their puzzles (allow from 20-30 minutes) discuss the communication and competition that took place during the experiment. Ask the kids to explain how they felt throughout the experiment.

- a. How did you feel when you couldn't talk? Did others help you? Why was communication in your group hard (or easy)?
- b. How did you feel about the others in your group? Were they selfish or generous? Do you consider yourself generous or selfish?
- c. When your group finished were you proud? When did you start competing with other groups? (This always happens—but never use the words team or competition, always group and experiment.)
- d. How did you feel when another group wanted to help you? Did you like the other groups, or did you feel they were showing off? Which was the best group? The worst group? Why?

e. How did you feel about yourself, your motives? How do you feel about your ability to communicate? Man's ability to communicate?

The discussion can go many directions. You could end up in a discussion of God's communication to man—why it is so difficult, why he had to become a man to communicate! Or you could end up talking about man's selfishness, pride, or competitive nature. Let your group's interaction steer your

choices of discussion topics.

### How to make the puzzles

When each group has finished, it will have five rectangles made by piecing the colors together as follows:

To prepare envelopes, cut the shapes at left from the designated colors of construction paper. Make sure they form the five rectangles. Then put all the reds in one envelope, all the blues in another, etc. These five envelopes make up enough for one group. If you have five groups of five people, for example, you'll need 25 envelopes divided so that each of five groups can complete five rectangles of five different colors.

