

47. Opinions about Credit and Debt

OBJECTIVE: Ice breaker to get people talking about credit and debt issues.

TIME: 10 minutes

MATERIALS:

A copy of the handout for the leader.

Three sheets of flipchart paper: one labeled “Strongly Disagree”, another “Strongly Agree” and another “Undecided”

NOTE TO TRAINER:

This activity works very well for large groups, even up to 100 people! Prepare the classroom by marking one side of the room as strongly agree, the other side as strongly disagree, and the center of the room as undecided by taping up the flip chart pages accordingly.

ACTIVITY:

Let the class know that you will be calling out common statements about credit and debt. As each statement is called out, ask participants to decide how they feel about the statement: Do they agree, disagree, or don't know? Ask them to show their responses by moving to the corresponding section of the room. Now, ask people in each group to explain why they agree or disagree with the statement. Make sure to ask people in the center too, their responses are usually equally thoughtful. Go through each statement using the same methodology.

When couples and families are in the class, encourage family members to go freely where they want and to respectfully note where their partner or family members go. Suggest that they take time soon at home to share thoughts, memories, and feelings together on these statements.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

- Were you surprised by the class opinions?
- Were different family members in different places?

HANDOUT: Opinions about Credit and Debt

Statement	Strongly Agree	Undecided	Strongly Disagree
I always pay my loans fully and on time.			
I understand how to obtain credit and manage my debts.			
I always pay off my credit card every month and don't have a balance.			
Around the holidays or special occasions, I may keep a balance on my credit card.			
I know what interest rate I am paying on all of my loans and credit cards.			
I think about how much money I have when I want to make a purchase.			
I think about how much credit I have available when I decide to make a purchase.			
My monthly loan payments are less than 30% of my monthly net income.			
I share my credit card with at least one family member.			
I know how to calculate my debt to income ratio.			

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