

18. Values Pyramid

OBJECTIVE: Couples or families to identify their joint values.

TIME: 15 minutes

MATERIALS:

Ten colored note cards (or 3" x 4" pieces of paper) and one pen or marker per couple or family

List of Values (cut up into pieces and preferably laminated)

Copy of List of Values sheet for each participant

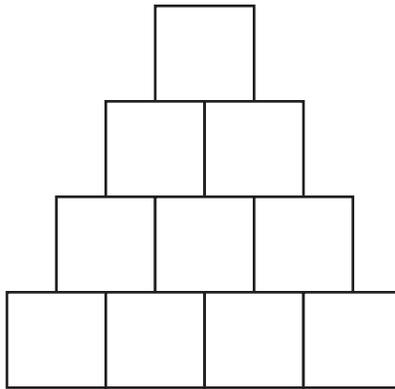
Envelope with \$600 in play money for each participant: two \$100 bills, four \$50s, five \$20s, and ten \$10s.

Auctioneer's gavel (optional)

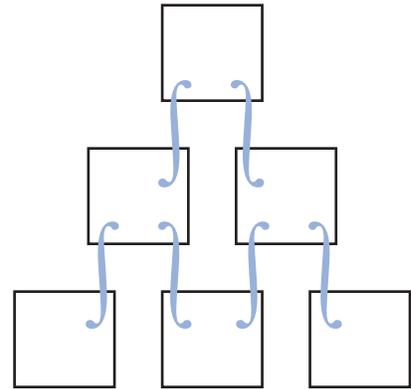
A drawing of the pyramid shape (illustrated below) on a flip chart or blackboard

[The Pyramid can also be turned into a mobile that the couple or family can display in their house. To make a mobile, also provide each couple or family with a piece of string and twelve paper clips. Paper clips bent open can serve as two-sided hooks to attach the mobile pieces (illustrated below).]

Pyramid:



Mobile:



NOTE TO TRAINER:

This is a great activity when done in combination with the Values Auction.

If families and couples are not in class together, participants can practice this activity in small groups of 3-4. At the end of class, provide participants a List of Values to take home and encourage them to repeat the activity with their families.

ACTIVITY:

Give each couple or family ten blank cards and the List of Values. (Same list of values from Values Auction). Ask each couple or family to look at the list of values, and together choose their top ten. Encourage them to:

- Add other values that may not be on the sheet.
- Include important values for each person in the family.
- Negotiate with each other as they choose their values.

The most important thing is that groups choose values that are satisfying for everyone in the family.

Once they've decided, have them write each of their final ten values on a card. Ask each couple or family to lay out their values cards in a pyramid shape following your guide. Explain that the most important value goes at the top, the two next most important values in the second tier, and so on. Give them some time to negotiate placement of the values.

Explain that the Values Pyramid can be a roadmap for their family life. Encourage them to display it someplace in their home where they can look at it. Also, explain that as family members get older, they may want to re-evaluate their values as some values will change over time. Staying in touch with the values that are important to them is an important task for the rest of their lives.

Encourage the class to invest time and money in their most important values. Remind the class that whatever they invest in will grow.