

14. Where's the Strength in Your Family?

OBJECTIVE: Demonstrate that a family working together as a team can accomplish and save more.

TIME: 5-10 minutes

MATERIALS:

A fistful of play \$100 bills

NOTE TO TRAINER:

When introducing this activity, it is better not to talk about teamwork but to talk in terms of “who wants to learn how to make more money!” The fun part of the activity is seeing the class participants figure out the “trick.”

ACTIVITY:

Ask two couples to come to the front to learn how to make more money by arm wrestling. Set up chairs at a table (or the corner of a table) so they can sit face to face and put their elbows on the table in a typical arm wrestling position.

Explain the rules of the game:

Every time the man wins (makes the woman's hand touch the table), he'll get \$100. Every time the woman wins (makes the man's hand touch the table), she will get \$200. Ask if anyone has questions. Give the couples one minute to earn as much money as they can.

OK, contestants, GO! Create and keep high energy here. Yell encouragement to the men, then the women. Encourage others in the class to yell, too. Whip down the bills as individuals win them.

At some point, the contestants will discover that allowing the woman to win quickly, over and over, can greatly increase their earnings. Using two couples to arm wrestle at the same time increases the competition and also the chance of this discovery. If the couples do not discover this on their own, ask the group if they see how the couple could earn more money. If no one discovers this, whisper the message in one couple's ears and let them demonstrate.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

- Did it take long for couples to work as a team?
- What did participants learn about themselves during this activity?
- How does this activity relate to money management with a partner or family members?
- How can participants work better with their families or partners as a team to increase family wealth? Ask people to give specific examples.

CONCLUDING TALKING POINTS:

It takes a committed couple or family to trust each other to share money and to make this team work. If not, family members will be more worried about protecting their own interests. In real life, families and couples who pool their resources accumulate more wealth.