

TOOLS OF THE TRADE Blue Sky Innovation Activity

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Time: approximately 30 min

Introduction: *We are going to try out this exercise in creativity.*

Establish some ground rules: *This is meant to be a playful, creative, and non-judgmental experience. We are brainstorming, so all ideas are ok, the wilder the better. Have fun!*

Set up: Break out into small groups of 4-6 people. Ask each group to name a note-taker.

Distribute one item, a “tool of the trade” to each group. (Some suggestions are listed at the bottom of this sheet, but feel free to add others.)

Then offer these instructions:

1. Make a list of all the intended uses of this object
2. Name other ways this object has or could be used. Repurpose or flip the function. Use your imagination!
3. Think how this item be used as a tool or symbol for some new ministry. Brainstorm for a minute or two and then ‘flesh out’ one response.
4. Invite each group to share
Offer positive pointers. Tell what you liked about the ministry idea.
Add further suggestions that come to mind to develop the idea as ministry:
Who would it impact or benefit?
Who else could partner or assist
How would this help your church “Live the Love and Justice of Jesus?”
Invite feedback from the rest of the larger group. (time permitting)

Debrief the overall experience

What did you notice about the process?

How did the object or process help spark creativity?

What are obstacles to creativity in your setting?

Could you see using this type of exercise at your church?

Band-aids

Bike Helmet

Bungee cord

Duck tape

Extension Cord

Flashlight

Juicer

Jumper Cables

Needlenose Pliers

Packing Tape

Screw Driver

Stain Remover

Tape measure

Trowel

Vegetable peeler

Wooden Spoon

Whistle

White out