

WALL TABLE ACTIVITY

Materials:

- 3 cardboard boxes of different sizes so they can be stacked on top of each other.
- Paper to cover boxes – if possible it should be bricks or something else that resembles a wall.
- Post it notes
- Snack

Prior to the participants / students arriving you need to arrange boxes in the center of the table with the snack and/or drink under the bottom box.

IMPORTANT – DON'T LET THE PARTICIPANTS TOUCH OR MOVE THE BOXES (WALLS)

There should be an instructor leading the discussion at the table(s).

NOTE: since the wall is in the middle of the table it may be difficult to have this discussion. You may want to move to one side or stand and ask the participants; "how can we communicate thru these walls?"

The instructor may open with an ice breaker such as "2 truths and a lie". Have cards and pencils on the table for each person including the instructor to write down two truthful things about themselves that maybe people don't know and one thing they made up about themselves.

After everyone has finished writing you should ask each person to read what they wrote and the group should try to guess which one is the lie. *(At this point the instructor may want to link this activity back to walls by asking the question...Can a lie ever create a wall/barrier between you and another person or even you and God, and on the other hand, when you hear the truth can that remove a wall or barrier that may have existed before you knew that fact about your neighbor?)*

Then continue with questions below. If you have more than one table you may want to ask someone to take notes about the answers to share later with the entire group.

WALL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions are meant as a guide. You may want to start or end with a personal story of your own about your encounter with either a physical or non-physical wall.

Take the post it notes and as you go thru the questions write down some of the words that put up walls and post them to the boxes. Be careful not to move the boxes.

1. Why do people build walls? (Safety such as building a fence around a pool so no one can get in and drown....I believe it's the law that if you own a pool you must fence it in or perhaps a prison so people who harm others are kept away from us, a wall to keep animals away, etc.)

2. Do walls help or harm a community? (Gated communities, exclusive clubs that only allow certain people in, etc.)
3. Do walls promote or hinder communication? (Berlin wall or the Great Wall of China)
4. Do you think it's easier to build a wall, or tear one down? Why? Why do people want to scale walls and how do they feel once they have done so?
5. What happens when walls go up? How does each side feel? Is there a fence or wall where you live between your house and your neighbor? Does it make a difference if you like or dislike your neighbors?
6. Do you text on your cell phone? Is it easier to text someone than to call them? If you had something difficult to say would you text or call? Does technology put up barriers for us to communicate with each other or does it make communication better?
7. What non-physical walls have you encountered? Good vs evil. Rich vs poor. Geek vs athlete.
8. Do you build walls in your life? Who is included and who's excluded? Do you "friend" everyone on Facebook or deny some friend invites. Is Facebook wall a good thing or bad thing?
9. Have you ever felt walled off from someone in your life? How did it feel? What did you learn?
10. Do you think friends/family/church are support walls that you need? Why? Should you be a support wall for others, for some, for everyone, for just good people?

Wrap up the discussion and then ask everyone to be seated if you have been standing for this exercise. Once everyone is seated at the table, ask if it might be easier to see or talk if the wall came down. Ask someone to carefully remove the **top** box and then the second box. If you have other tables be sure everyone is doing this at the same time so no one gets to the snack before others. **The instructor will remove the last barrier/wall which will uncover the snack.** The snack should be passed around and everyone should be encouraged to partake.