

Pondering Point

What does it mean to be part of a team? It means being part of something that joins at least two people together for a common goal or purpose. This can be in our own homes as parents or a family unit, at the office as colleagues or out working in our communities. Many times we don't have the luxury of choosing our team members. They are chosen for us by leaders or, in some cases, our circumstances. Have you ever found yourself in a team with someone you don't agree with or that constantly challenges your point of view? *How do we see past that to the common vision?*

Are we recognizing all the situations when we are a team? Why do we need to be part of a team? While it may seem easier to surround ourselves with "yes" men that agree with our every thought, different personalities and challenging viewpoints bring out diversity in ideas and thought and because of this, most of the time we will end up in a better place than we started! *Are we respecting the viewpoints of others? Are we respecting ourselves by speaking up and being heard? Having a positive attitude can go a long way in making progress in our teams. Do we see where teams exist in our lives?*

When are we a TEAM?

*What causes people to be on the same team?
Do we allow our team to disagree with us?*



Imagine... understanding different personalities and appreciating the different perspectives.

— From Pondering to Practice —

Activity:

- Get group to brainstorm the components of an effective team.
- Effective groups have effective facilitators - people that can draw out the personalities of those more shy.
- What can we do to make progress in our team dynamic?
 - Keep the mission in the front of people and visit it aloud often.
 - Allow the group to set the guidelines as a team.
- Knowing that disagreements can happen, how can we better prepare our team to meet these challenges?
- Do a team building activity and do it regularly!
 - **Try this:** [The Well Acquainted Teammate Game!](#)

Have fun getting to know your team - you may find you have more in common than you thought!

Reflection:

- What if you have someone on the team that is a Darth Vader?
 - What do you do with that kind of negative personality?
- Have you ever changed your mind based on the differing viewpoints of another?
- What social and emotional skill does it take to be an effective team member?

The Charmm'd Foundation would like to thank Marge Burda & DeSha Kalmar for pondering with us this week!

"Synergy is the highest activity of life; it creates new untapped alternatives; it values and exploits the mental, emotional, and psychological differences between people."

- Stephen Covey