

ENHANCING  
TEAM SPIRIT  
*and*  
PROFESSIONAL  
BEHAVIORS

Brief Team-Led Discussions  
for Developing Team Spirit  
and Professional Behaviors

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# How to use these cards

## **Pre-Activity Discussion**

Use this section of the card to prompt team thinking before engaging in team activity.

- What is the targeted attribute and why is it important?
- Where might it be most visible in our upcoming activity?
- What should it look like?

**PRINCIPLE:** Found here is a Bible-based principle that might guide thinking during the team activity, prompting desired attributes.

## **Post-Activity Assessment**

Use questions in this section to prompt post-activity discussion. Identify steps that will bring improvement.

Then score your team on this attribute (0 = absent, 10 = incredible).

# LIVING A TEAM MOTTO



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

A team uses a motto or similar statement to communicate its identity or what it values. The team verse below is such a motto statement. The team must then live consistently with such values.

- What should an observer see in our team that will give credence to our motto?

TEAM VERSE: Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How did we demonstrate the attributes of our motto during our team work time?

What might we do better in the future?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# BEING KIND TO OTHERS



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Kindness has been described as showing others a combination of compassion and generosity.

- What are some ways that teammates might show kindness to one another?
- What makes it so difficult to be kind to others?

**PRINCIPLE:** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

## Post-Activity Assessment

Did members' and mentors' words and actions today show a culture of kindness?

What might we do to grow in kindness?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# SHOWING HUMILITY



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Humility, having a modest opinion of one's importance, is valued by God and by us all.

- What actions give evidence of humility?
- What demonstrates a lack of humility?

**PRINCIPLE:** When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.  
(Proverb 11:2)

## Post-Activity Assessment

To what extent did our actions show that our team values humility?

What might we do to grow a spirit of humility?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# ENCOURAGING OTHERS



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

We may become discouraged by conditions in our team, projects, or our personal lives.

- What conditions cause you to get discouraged?
- What can others do to encourage you as a member of the team?

**PRINCIPLE:** A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. (Proverb 15:13)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How were words or actions used to encourage others today?

What might we do to better bring proper encouragement when needed?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# GROWING COMPETENCE



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

To be productive, we need to learn and grow new skills as demanded by our responsibilities.

- In what areas do you need to grow competence?
- What can you do on a regular basis to learn what will benefit you and your team?

The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge; the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. (Proverb 18:15)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How did you learn something new during your work time today?

How can we better help teammates achieve their learning goals?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# BUILDING TEAM UNITY



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## Pre-Activity Discussion:

A team is most effective when it has unity or oneness in its purposes and actions.

- What gives evidence of our team unity?
- What actions might suggest disunity?

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity (Colossians 3:13-14)

## Post-Activity Assessment

What can we do to bring greater unity to our team?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:



# SHOWING RESPECT



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

All of us want to be respected for who we are and what we bring to our team.

- In what ways should we show respect to our leaders and mentors?
- How should we show respect to all teammates?

**PRINCIPLE:** Whoever scorns instruction will pay for it, but whoever respects a command is rewarded.  
(Proverb 13:13)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How did we do in showing respect to one another?

In what areas might we show greater respect?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Celebrating successes may be an important factor in growing strong team spirit.

- What should our team celebrate?
- What forms of celebration are most appropriate for our team?

Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. (Proverb 31:31)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How appropriately did we celebrate our successes today?

What might we do to celebrate more appropriately in the future?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# IMPROVING TEAM MORALE



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

A team with high morale is positive, even excited, about itself and its accomplishments.

- What affects our team's morale?
- What can we do to improve low morale?

PRINCIPLE: Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. (Proverb 13:12)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How well did we show strong team morale today?

What might we do better in the future?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# SHOWING GRACE



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Showing grace is showing favor or doing good to others who may not deserve it.

- How might we show grace in our interactions with teammates?
- How might we show grace in a competition?

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. (Proverb 16:24)

## Post-Activity Assessment

What might we do to encourage gracious behaviors on an ongoing basis?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# TAKING INITIATIVE



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Taking initiative is exercising the power to originate, such as beginning a task without being told to.

- When is it important to take initiative?
- When is it inappropriate to take initiative?

PRINCIPLE (parable): So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you. His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant!" (Matthew 25:25-26)

## Post-Activity Assessment

What are examples we have seen when members took initiative?

How can we better take initiative when needed?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# LEARNING FROM FAILURES



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

We often become discouraged from our failures. However, failures are simply opportunities to learn.

- What failures have you seen or experienced in the team recently?
- What should we learn from these failures?

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. (Proverb 15:22)

## Post-Activity Assessment

Did you learn from any failures today?

How can we learn more from things we do that appear to be failures?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# KEEPING OTHERS INFORMED



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Teammates and coaches need to know what members are doing so all can contribute effectively.

- How well do you know what others are doing?
- Who needs to know what you are doing?

Have I not taught you to be honest and to speak the truth, so that you bring back truthful reports to those you serve? (Proverb 22:21)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How well did we keep others informed today?

What might we do to better inform those who need to know what is being done?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# MANAGING ANGER



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Inappropriate expressions of anger can hurt individuals, shut down participation, and cast shadows on the perpetrator and team.

- What are common causes of anger in our team?
- How can we best manage our anger?

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverb 15:1)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How well was anger managed today?

What can we do to avoid anger that produces negative impacts on the team?

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# LEARNING FROM DIFFERENCES



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

When two people voice different opinions, behave differently, or value different things, they are presented opportunities to learn.

- What differences in our team present these opportunities?
- How can we transform a difference into something fruitful?

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult.  
(Proverbs 12:15-16)

## Post-Activity Assessment

Did we see any fruitful differences today?

What can we do to encourage fruitful resolution of differences in the future?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# HANDLING UNCERTAINTIES



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Many people panic or act unwisely when they face uncertainties or risky decisions.

- What might cause one to panic over a risky decision?
- What should we do when facing uncertainties too great for us to handle alone?

Where there *is* no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors *there* is safety.  
(Proverb 11:14)

## Post-Activity Assessment

Did we handle uncertainties well today?

What can we do to help one another handle uncertainties well in the future?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# FOCUSING ON OUTCOMES



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

As a team, we must achieve our goals within a set time period. Each of us must be diligent to do our part in achieving team goals.

- What technical and professional goals should be our focus?
- How can we maintain a focus that enables us to achieve our goals on time?

He who gathers in summer *is* a wise son; he who sleeps in harvest *is* a son who causes shame..  
(Proverb 10:5)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How well did we focus on our goals today?

What can we do to be more outcome-focused?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# BEING INCLUSIVE



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

At times, teams may intentionally or unintentionally exclude some members from full participation.

- What conditions in our team cause some members to be excluded from full participation?
- How can we make everyone a full participant?

It is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy. (Proverb 14:21)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How well did we include everyone in team activities today?

What can we do in the future to enable all members to benefit fully from team activities?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# BEING THANKFUL



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Expressions of thanks lift the spirits of a team, encourage members to greater achievement, and please God.

- Does our team tend toward thankfulness or toward complaining?
- What can we do to cultivate thankfulness?

I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people. (Psalm 35:18)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How thankful have we been in our work today?

What can we do to be more thankful in the future?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# SHOWING MERCY



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Showing mercy is withholding condemnation or punishment that may be deserved.

- How might we show mercy in our interactions with teammates?
- How might we show mercy in a competition?

The merciful man does good for his own soul,  
But he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.  
(Proverb 11:17)

## Post-Activity Assessment

What might we do to encourage one another to show mercy on an ongoing basis?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# REJECTING COMPLACENCY



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

At times we become unproductive. Appearing busy, we are complacent about doing work for the team.

- Why do we become complacent about doing work for the team?
- How can we reject complacency and be productive?

As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,  
so *is* the lazy man to those who send him.  
(Proverb 10:26)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How productive were our team members today?

What can we do to help everyone shake off complacency and be productive in the future?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# LISTENING TO LEARN



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

When we fail to listen well, we often do not truly understand and we quickly forget. Poor listening can lead to serious consequences.

- What are reasons that we don't listen well?
- How can we make ourselves better listeners?

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. (James 1:25)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How were team members listening to learn today?

What can we do to help others be better listeners?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:



# CONTROLLING FOOLISHNESS



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Foolishness casts shadows on the wisdom of individuals and teams. Foolishness distracts from productive work and can lead to accidents.

- What conditions encourage foolishness to occur?
- How can we have fun and yet not become fools?

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. (Proverb 12:15)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How was foolishness managed by team members today?

What can we do to help everyone recognize and take steps to control foolishness in our team?

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# LEADING OTHERS



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Teams without good leaders fail to work as a unit and often lack coordination.

- What are the attributes of a good leader?
- How can our team help one another lead well?

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. (Proverb 21:5)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How well did our leaders lead today?

What can leaders do in the future to better empower the team?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# BEING TRUTHFUL



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## Pre-Activity Discussion

Truthful communication provides what enables recipients to understand what they need.

- In what ways do we hold back truth when reporting on our work accomplishments?
- What can we do to keep ourselves truthful about our work for the team?

The LORD detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him. (Proverb 11:1)

## Post-Activity Assessment

How well did we communicate truthfully today?

What can we do in the future to encourage communication of the full truth?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date:

# SELF-ASSESSING PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS



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ASSESSMENT: Rate (X) **yourself** on:

	<i>Beginning</i>	<i>Excelling</i>
• Patient and kind with others	_____	_____
• Reaches out to help others	_____	_____
• Not jealous but praises others	_____	_____
• Not boastful or prideful	_____	_____
• Polite, not rude	_____	_____
• Open to others' ideas	_____	_____
• Slow to become angry	_____	_____
• Forgives/forgets wrongs	_____	_____
• Values truth and honesty	_____	_____
• Protects others from harm	_____	_____
• Shows trust in others	_____	_____
• Remains hopeful, optimistic	_____	_____
• Takes initiative when needed	_____	_____
• Persists to achieve goals	_____	_____

PRINCIPLE: *The king weighs all evidence,  
distinguishing bad from good. (Proverb 20:8)*

ACTION: What we need to work on most:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Date: