Privilege for Sale

Large Group 101  Medium Trust 20 mins  Intersectionality

Materials & Media:
- Participant handouts
- (optional) writing implement
- Scrap paper for money amounts for groups

Set Up:
- Write amounts of money to give to the different groups on pieces of scrap paper. The amounts should differ (300, 500, 700, 900, 1100) and ideally are not divisible by the # of people in the group.

Goals & Learning Outcomes:
- For participants to realize what privileges they may not realize they have and/or take for granted
- For participants to recognize that privilege is not only a legal construct but also social, religious, economical and so on
- For participants to see how their personal perspective, life situation, etc. influence the types choices they make

Process Steps & Talking Points:
1. Explain that we are about to do a group activity and have participants get into groups of 3-5.
2. Once in their groups frame the activity.
3. “For the purposes of this activity, you do not have any of these privileges. Your group will have an amount of money and collectively you have to decide which privileges you’d like to buy. Again, your group is going to get an amount of money and you have to decide together what from the list you’re going to purchase. I’ll come around in a moment with your money, each privilege costs $100.”
4. Pass out the privilege sheets
5. Pass out slips of paper with the amount of money written on them.
6. Check in with each group to see if they have any questions about the directions.
7. Give participants approximately 5 minutes to pick privileges. Let them know when they have two minutes left.
8. Wrap up the activity and bring the participants back to process with the larger group.

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Debrief/Process Questions:
What was it like to do this activity?
What questions did you all wrestle with when trying to make this decision as a group?
What struck you about the list?
What themes did you notice in the list?
What was the process like deciding as a group? What do you think the value of doing this activity in groups was?
Why do you think I gave you money to buy the privileges with rather than say like every privilege costs a token and you get a certain number of tokens as a group?
What are you taking away from this activity?

Wrap Up:
Feel free to share back with the group some of the themes that you noticed in the discussion or wrap up by connecting the activity back to the large conversation you were having about privilege.

Co-Facilitator Notes:
If you both have different things or focal points that you get out of the activity then it would be great to focus your wrap up and contributions on those different things.

Bring Your Style:
This activity is very adaptable and can easily be focused for the group that you are working with. If you are working with athletes you could talk about privilege of feeling comfortable changing in locker rooms without the worry of others thinking that you are attracted to them or the privilege of talking openly about your sexuality with your teammates. The more focused that you can make the activity for the group you are working with the better.
Privilege for Sale

Each privilege costs $100

1. Celebrating your marriage with your family, friends, and coworkers.
2. Paid leave from your job when grieving the death of your partner(s).
3. Inheriting from your partner(s)/lover(s)/companion(s) automatically after their death.
4. Using public restrooms and restrooms at work without fear of verbal abuse, physical intimidation, or arrest.
5. Using facilities such as gym locker rooms and store changing rooms without stares, fear, or anxiety.
6. Being able to receive medical care, including emergency medical care, without worrying that your identities affect the quality of care that you receive.
7. Being able to see your partner(s) immediately in an accident or an emergency.
8. Having multiple positive TV role models.
9. Reading books or seeing movies where you share identities with the characters.
10. Being able to buy clothes without hesitation or fear of being mocked, questions, or made uncomfortable.
12. Feeling unthreatened and safe in your interactions with authority figures and police officers.
13. Raising children without worrying about family, friends, community rejecting your children because of your identity.
14. Having the health insurance provided through your job cover the necessary medical treatments you need.
15. Being able to travel without worrying about your safety due to your identities.
16. Kissing/hugging/being affectionate in public without discomfort, threat, or punishment.
17. Freely being able to discuss your relationship(s) with others.
18. Being able to be a foster parent.
19. Applying for a job/promotion without worrying your name or identities will hold you back.
20. Being employed as a preschool or elementary school teacher without people assuming you will “corrupt” their children.
21. Receiving validation and acceptance from your religious or spiritual community.
22. Living openly with your partner(s).
23. Being accepted by your neighbors, colleagues, and new friends.
24. Being able to call/access social services without fear of discrimination around your gender and/or sexual orientation.
25. Able to obtain child custody.
26. Being able to share health insurance with your partner(s).
27. Being able to sponsor your partner(s) for citizenship.

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