



STEREOTYPING

REVIEW RESOURCE

introduction

There are 196 countries in the world, in which 7 billion people live, all with individual and unique faces, bodies and skin, speaking different languages, participating in different customs and traditions, worshipping different God's, living under different governments and political systems - different are the lives we may lead, yet we are all simply human.

In Australia, we are exposed to a variety of different cultures and ethnicities, we are given the freedom to choose how we dress, what our interests are, what we believe in, what we say and what we post on the internet. However, exercising this freedom can sometimes lead us to be judged by others and even 'put into a box' - a stereotype.

The resource will have a SEE - JUDGE - ACT format, and will help you to look into this everyday issue of stereotyping and ask you to see where this takes place within society.

how to use this resource

1. Have a leader for the group.

You may like to have a leader for the entire review, sections of the review, or even week to week - depending on how long you spend on the review.

2. The leader must prepare for each meeting.

The Leader must look over the content of the next meeting and have an idea about what will happen. It is the leader's responsibility to keep the group focused and facilitate engaging discussion - they will need to prepare in order to do this.

Look for 'Leader Notes' on Page 3 for a guide to preparing for meetings. (You may like to use these 'Leader Notes' and 'Leaders Planning Template' for other reviews as well, not just this one in particular.)

3. Remember to stay focused on the See - Judge - Act.

The See - Judge - Act, allows you to understand the issue fully before taking an action that addresses the cause of the issue. If you stay focused on the question at hand, you will be able to accomplish your action with better knowledge of what you are working towards, what you are working against, why you are taking the action and how you will achieve it.

'Stereotyping' Review Meeting

A note to leaders:

The writing in **bold font** is an example of what to say a loud, the other notes in normal font are for your own understanding.

Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country is important because it is a way of showing awareness of and respect for the traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander owners of the land on which a meeting or event is being held, and of recognising the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to their Country. At a meeting, speech or formal occasion the speaker can begin their proceedings by offering an Acknowledgement of Country. Unlike a Welcome to Country, it can be performed by a non-Indigenous person.

There are no set protocols or wording for an Acknowledgement of Country, though often a statement may take the following form:

"I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the (appropriate group) people, and pay my respect to elders both past and present."

- Reconciliation Australia

SEE SECTION

The SEE Section is the basis of your entire review, as the leader it is really important that the SEE Section is done thoroughly because without seeing what the issue is under the surface (looking at the causes as well as the consequences) the group won't be able to take effective action in the end to combat the issue.

As a group/small groups discuss,

What you think the meaning of the term 'stereotyping' is?

Leader read out the definition of 'stereotype',

'Widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing: the stereotype of the woman as the carer.'

- Oxford Dictionary

In relation to the definition from the dictionary, as a group/small groups discuss,

Is this similar or different to what you had thought?

Is there anything you would add to/remove from the definition from your discussions?

Once you believe the group/groups have established what a 'stereotype' is, maybe write a general definition on the board for the duration of the review, but move on to discussing the following as a group/small groups,

What are some examples of stereotypes that are often made in society?

Looking at your world, as a group/small groups discuss, try to draw similarities between how you would feel in a foreign environment, to how others feel in Australia.

Have you ever been stereotyped in your society?

Do you think that some people in your community, even yourself, feel stereotyped in Australia?

Looking at your world, as a group/small groups discuss a significant personal experience of stereotyping, whether you have seen this happen to others in the community or if you have been stereotyped. You may like to give the group a minute to think about it before they share.

(THE FOLLOWING SHOULD TAKE THE BULK OF THE MEETING TIME)

Can you think of an example when you have have seen or experienced this?

Be specific in your example,

When did this happen?

Where did this happen?

What did you do in response? Why?

What do you think caused this situation to happen?



Who was involved in the situation and how were each of these people affected? Were there any other consequences to the situation?

Do you think there is a long term effect of stereotyping in society? If not, why? If so, what and why?

Acknowledge that the different experiences from society given by the members of the group are all relevant to building a picture of how this issue effects society as a whole.

Then, ask the group/groups to focus on one situation they would like to review (You may even find that the group naturally focus in on one particular situation, but it is good to get the group to agree on this before moving on).

Before you move on to the judge section make sure that the members of the understand;(It may be good to even summarise these before moving on)

1. What exactly happened? Was there a response?
2. What caused this to happen and why? (Causes)
3. How were people affected? (Consequences)

JUDGE SECTION

Now that you have identified what the issue is in the SEE Section, you need to get the group to identify why in the JUDGE Section. Once you know this, you can move onto the ACT Section with a better understanding of what action you need to take to target the issue at its core.

Remember to **TAKE YOUR TIME** on this section, as this is what differentiates a chat about an issue and a review of an issue. The action will mean more to the group when you have clearly understood the reasons why you have to act.

Some people might not have had an experience to talk about in the SEE Section, as the leader, it is important to try and get **EVERYONE** to voice their thoughts in this section about what they have heard in the SEE Section. To do this you can use simple strategies such as;

- a) asking people using their name in the group
- b) go around the circle with the same question
- c) get the big group to break up into pairs to discuss their thoughts with the person next to them.

As a group/small groups discuss,

What do you think about stereotyping in this example and on the whole?

As this is a very broad question, you may like to use one or more of these questions to discuss this;

What is your initial feeling about the issue after discussing it?

Has your perspective changed since talking about it with the group?

Can you describe what you think in three words?

As a group/small groups discuss the following questions, address that these questions may be challenging, and they are there to be thought provoking rather than intimidating.

Faith is an important part of social justice, it is why we take action, to understand your faith is to understand the work that you do.

Does your faith say anything about stereotyping a person?

There are many passages in the Bible about stereotyping, depending on what slant your group's discussion heads in you may be able to read out some or one of the following passages for discussion.

Hypocrisy

'Judging Others' - Luke 6. 37-38

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you."

Caring for others

'The Golden Rule' - Matthew 7. 12-13

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."

Is this the same as what you think?

What do you think Jesus would do about it if he were in your shoes?

Can you think of an example in the Gospel where Jesus had to face stereotyping himself or was in a situation when someone was stereotyped? What did he do in this situation?

If your group is able to think of examples on their own, ask the questions in bold below.

If the group are struggling to think of any examples you may like to read this following passage to them after giving them ample time to think, then ask the questions that follow.

Luke 14:12-14

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

What does this example show us about what should be happening?

Do you think that this is the ideal situation?

ACT SECTION

judge...

Now that you understand what the problem is and why it is an issue, you can take action to change it! By looking at the next few questions you are able to lead your group in developing a plan of attack and to clearly identify how small actions relate and lead to the bigger change.

What exactly do you want to change about the issue of stereotyping in your personal life, in your community or school in the long run?

Make sure that the group comes up with a specific aim, make it concise, it can be unrealistic, but must be very specific. It needs to be this way because otherwise the step/s that lead to this change are broad and aren't really targeting what you want to achieve.

What are the steps that you think can get you there?

Use this question to really tease out how you might achieve your long term goal, this is about figuring out the small steps.

Who would you involve at each step along the way?

Start small, begin with self, then slowly move outwards into the

community.

Can you do any of these as a worthwhile step toward your long term aim?

How will you involve the people that you have listed?

How will you follow each other up in completing the action?

Will you all see how you are going at your next meeting? Or are there other options, you could utilise social media or even just planning to check on each other when you see them around.

Reflection and Evaluation

What is this?

The Review of Life is like a spiral, it never ends! After you complete an action it good to reflect and evaluate how your action went. This helps to make sure you improve the effectiveness of your next action. This can be done straight after taking an action or at your next meeting, it doesn't take long but you can learn a lot from it!

Here are some key questions to help you guide your reflection and evaluation:

What was our action's aim?

Was the aim of the action achieved?

How well was it achieved?

Why was the action successful?

What could have been improved about it?

What did we learn from the action?

What are some key points to remember for next time?

