

Complimenting Others

Month: Dec.

Week #: 15

Day: d. Thur. Time: 30 min.

Dare to Go Deeper!

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: learn to give compliment that go beyond mere surface appearances to deeper personality traits and characteristics.

Materials

none

Illustration

Jamal is complimenting John. He gave him some nice 'shallow' compliments, but he's thinking really hard to give him a 'deeper' and more meaningful compliment. Was he successful?

Shallow
 "I like your shoes."
 "Nice hair."
 "Cool pants!"
 "Great shirt!"
 "I like your laugh."



Deeper
 "John, you are a hard worker and a person of great courage and integrity"

Background

Complimenting a person about their shoes or hairstyle (outward appearance) is fine and certainly better than no compliment at all, but a compliment that speaks to their inner self will usually have more of a profound impact. It also demonstrates a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the person.

Group Activity

1. Go around the group complimenting the students on their outward appearance (e.g. hair, shoes, shirt, etc.)
2. Now go around giving 'deeper' compliments about their character and personality traits. (e.g. John, you are a person of great courage.)

Group Discussion Questions

1. What was different about the 1st round of compliments and the 2nd round of compliments?
 A: The first compliment talked about the 'surface' of the person whereas the second compliment was more personal and meaningful.
2. Which compliment was more meaningful? Why?
 A: The second compliment was more meaningful because it spoke to the other person's inner self.

Variations/Extensions

1. A) Split the students into 2 equal groups. Have them form two concentric circles on the floor with the inner circle facing the outer circle.

 B) Have the inner circle rotate clockwise giving each person a 'shallow' surface compliment. Then, have the outer circle rotate counterclockwise giving each person a deeper compliment. Remind them that they need to be sincere.

Conclusion

Say, “Surface or shallow compliments are fine. They certainly are better than cutting another person down or saying nothing at all. However, if you dare to go deeper, and compliment another person about their personality traits, you can really touch that person in ways that will positively affect that person for the rest of his or her life!”

Shallow
“I like your shoes.”
“Nice hair.”
“Cool pants!”
“Great shirt!”
“I like your laugh.”



Deeper
“John, you are a hard worker and a person of great courage and integrity”

Jamal is complimenting John. He gave him some nice ‘shallow’ compliments, but he’s thinking really hard to give him a ‘deeper’ and more meaningful compliment. Was he successful?