

# Pass Right – Pass Left!

## ***Purpose/Benefits:***

The general purpose of this activity is to build communication skills among chapter members. This activity will focus on *listening*, which is one of the most important communication skills.

## ***Energy Level:***

Moderate/High – This activity requires a moderate amount of movement, but can illicit high energy through laughter.

## ***Settings/Materials Needed:***

This needs to be conducted in a relatively quiet place. The following materials are needed:

- ☀ The Wright Family Story (*see attachment*)
- ☀ One penny or a small object for each person in the group.

## ***Method:***

Have your chapter members form a circle (either sitting or standing). Give each person in the circle a penny or some other small item that can be passed easily from hand to hand. Tell the group you are going to read them a story and every time they hear any word that sounds like *right* or *left*, they are to pass the object in their hand to the person on their right or left. Start reading the story slowly so they have a chance to catch on to what you want them to do. After a few passes stop the story and ask them how they are doing. Check to see that everyone has an object in their hand. If your chapter is typical, some will have two or three objects and others will not have any. Have them redistribute the objects so everyone has one again. Now continue to read the story, getting faster as you go. Stop the story a couple of more times to check on how they are doing.

## ***Debriefing Questions:***

- ☀ How did you feel during the activity?
- ☀ What would have made the activity easier to accomplish?
- ☀ How hard was it to listen and pass the objects at the same time?
- ☀ How much of the story can you remember?
- ☀ What can this activity tell us about communication with in our chapter?

## ***Attachments:***

See the next page for “**The Wright Family**” story.

*Source of Icebreaker: Activities that Teach – by Tom Jackson*



# The Wright Family

One day the Wright family decided to take a vacation. The first thing they had to decide was who would be left at home since there was not enough room in the Wright family car for all of them. Mr. Wright decided that Aunt Linda Wright would be the one left at home. Of course this made Aunt Linda Wright so mad that she left the house immediately yelling, “It will be a right cold day before I return.”

The Wright family now bundled up the children, Tommy Wright, Susan Wright, Timmy Wright and Shelly Wright, and got in the car and left. Unfortunately, as they turned out of the driveway someone had left a trash can in the street so they had to turn right around and stop the car. They told Tommy Wright to get out of the car and move the trash can so they could get going. Tommy took so long that they almost left him in the street. Once the Wright family got on the road, Mother Wright wondered if she had left the stove on. Father Wright told her not to worry he had checked the stove and she had not left it on. As they turned right at the corner, everyone started to think about other things that they might have left undone.

No need to worry now, they were off on a right fine vacation. When they arrived at the gas station, Father Wright put gas in the car and then discovered he had left his wallet at home. So Timmy Wright ran home to get the money that was left behind. After Timmy had left, Susan Wright started to feel sick. She left the car saying that she had to throw up. This, of course, got Mother Wright’s attention and she left the car in a hurry. Shelly Wright wanted to watch Susan get sick, so she left the car too. Father Wright was left with Tommy Wright who was playing a game in the back seat.

With all of this going on Father Wright decided this was not the right time to take a vacation, so he gathered up all the family and left the gas station as quickly as he could. When he arrived home, he turned left into the driveway and said, “I wish the Wright family had never left the house today!”

*Source of Icebreaker: Activities that Teach – by Tom Jackson*