Flip Side

From Funn Stuff III by Karl Rohnke

DO: If there are more than 15 youth in your group, you should probably divide the group in half. Place a tarp (the one I use is 15 x 15 feet) on the floor. Tell participants the following story:

"Your group was on a large yacht. The yacht started to sink, so you threw the life boat overboard and everyone got on. (Instruct the youth to get on the life boat/tarp.) Suddenly, water started to fill the life boat. Someone realized that the boat was put in the water upside down. Sharks are circling, but in order to save the group, you must turn the life boat/tarp over without anyone getting off. If anyone falls off, you have to start over from the beginning."

Note for leader: Don't be surprised if the group has to start over 2 or 3 times. Don't be surprised if it appears that nobody is listening to each other. I empathize with youth's frustration but don't give any suggestions. They eventually figure it out.

REFLECT: What was hard about this activity?

How did you decide how to solve the problem? What kinds of skills did it take to turn the boat over?

How did it feel when you had to start over?

APPLY: When have you experienced a situation that seemed impossible at first, but

you eventually figured it out? How did it feel?

When have you been in a situation where everyone wanted their idea to be

the idea that was used? How did it feel?

Why is it hard to listen to others in this type of situation?