

## TEAM LEADERSHIP PROBLEM

### 6. PUZZLE ME THIS

**Theme:** Teamwork Fundamentals

**Estimated Time:** 25-30 minutes

**Resources Required:** A puzzle from a dollar store (try to find one with about 100 pieces).

#### **Activity Description and Step-by-Step Instructions:**

Leaders must be flexible. They must be able to delegate responsibility to others and even to place others in command if they become incapacitated. This exercise helps to model these attributes.

Prepare the puzzle box ahead of time by removing the corner pieces (you keep these with you during the activity), and by removing any end pieces (separate these into four plastic baggies). Leave the rest of the puzzle pieces in the box.

Instruct the group that it will be putting together the puzzle and give it the box. Allow them to begin and keep track of who leads. Pick someone who is not leading and hand him or her one of the baggies containing some of the edge pieces. State that this person is now the leader. After a few minutes, pick out another person who has not led. Give this person another baggie of edge pieces and declare that person the leader. Continue this cycle until all baggies have been given out and the puzzle is completed (minus the corner pieces, of course). Show the group that you had the corner pieces all along and that this activity was not really about solving the puzzle. Ask the group, "What do you think this activity was about?"

#### **Discussion Questions:**

What were some methods used that worked or did not work?

What were some ways to make the team work more efficiently?

What were some concepts learned from this exercise?

How can these concepts be applied to outside this activity?