

Worshipful Master Lodge Discussion Series

Title: Junior Deacon

Version: 1.0

Purpose: Help brothers see how a Junior Deacon's job, clarifying what is meant before acting on it, works in their own lives every day. Test what happens when a man stays neutral long enough to make sure everyone means the same thing.

Keywords: clarification, neutral ground, unverified assumption, confirmation, communication channels

Materials Needed:

None


Supporting Content/Guides

PDF - AMW Groundrules

Related Podcast Episodes:

 The Ruffians Within — Episode 3: Uncertainty Disguised as Virtue

 The World - Part III: The Social World and the Architecture of Relationship

 Hidden Tool #1 - Metallic Objects & The Preparing Room



Setup:

WM Time Needed:

2 minutes

Member Time Needed

None

Considerations:

Individuals in the lodge will participate in different ways. Challenging a member to participate in a way that is uncomfortable for them should only be done with a skilled facilitator and a high-trust group.

Messaging:

Most of us think the Junior Deacon stands still and listens because nothing is happening yet. That is wrong. He is doing something that matters. He is checking that what was said is what was heard. He is holding neutrality so people can speak plainly without defending themselves. Tonight we are looking at where that job shows up in your own work and home, and what it costs when it gets skipped.

Key questions:

“What does it look like when someone holds the space for a misunderstanding to surface before people act on it? How do you notice it in a conversation, in a meeting, in how a team moves forward?”

“Does any of that sound familiar in your own work or home life? Where have you had to do that job, that checking before you both moved forward?”

“Is there a time when you stayed neutral long enough to ask the clarifying question, and it turned out that what you heard was not what was meant? What made you ask instead of just moving ahead?”

“If this lodge made it a habit to pause and confirm understanding before taking action on a decision, what would a visitor notice about how brothers talk to each other?”

“How did this conversation change what you understand about what a clarifying question is actually doing in the room?”

Wrap-up:

Touch on the key points and highlights of the discussion. Pay special attention to discoveries or immediate learnings by the participants. Personalize positive feedback with “I really valued Brother [John's] point about X, or Y”

DISCUSSION

Date of Meeting:

Rating? ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Key Points

Takeaways

The Best Part:

Thing's I'd do differently next time:

Do this again? Y N

If so, how often? _____

