

Development and Peace

The Cities Game





The Cities Game

(a.k.a **The Peace-War-Peace Game** – don't tell participants this name though!)

Note: Great activity with little set up

NEVER DO THIS WITHOUT LOTS OF TIME TO DEBRIEF

1. Collect recyclable materials - anything that you can build with as well as glue, paint markers, crayons, etc
2. Groups should be about 5-6 people. Give the participants about 45 minutes to build a city. Put all the materials in one place and have a member of each group come to get whatever they want. Tell them to make it as beautiful as possible and to fantasize about a perfect city. Put on some nice music (classical, Enya, whatever)
3. Don't tell them what is coming next.
4. Move the groups to different cities and give them time to observe the city.
5. Tell them that they are at war and have 10-20 seconds to destroy the other city. E.g. A group leader runs into the room and commands, "This is a hostile territory! You must destroy the city you are at!" Put on some destructive music (Rage against the Machine, Korn, Slipknot etc.)
6. Send them back to their own city and give them 15 minutes to rebuild. Put the nice music back on. During the rebuilding they may not have any new materials, only glue. They must use whatever is left from the destruction
7. DEBRIEF - Start with questions like ...
 - How did you feel when you were building your city? saw your city in ruins? Destroying? Rebuilding? etc.
 - What did you think about when you were destroying? Did you think about not doing it? Why did you do it? Why did you not do it? (often there are some who refrain) Are there times when you need to disobey? Is it enough to not participate? What did your city look like when you rebuilt it? What part of the city were you most proud of?

These are only some ideas. They may also just want to talk.

Key points:

- After war you can never fully recover
- Civil disobedience
- ♦ - **It has been said that the wars of the 21st C will be fought over water.**
- Dangers of simply following orders
- see Fact sheet for churches' position

Warning: Some participants may be very upset. That is ok.
It is part of the activity, but be prepared to talk about that and deal with it.

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