

Proverbs

Goal:

Participants will discover that, in many ways, people from different backgrounds and cultures hold similar values and beliefs.

Time:

15–20 minutes.

Materials:

A set of paired “Proverb Cards.”

Procedure:

In advance, print the pairs of proverbs on the next page on index cards so that each proverb appears on a separate card.

Count the number of participants in the group and select enough cards to equal the number of participants. If there is an uneven number of participants, the leader must participate in this activity. Make sure that the cards are selected in matching pairs (one card with a proverb from the United States and one card with a similar proverb from another country).

Mix up the cards and pass out one card to each participant. When all cards have been distributed, ask participants to move around and find the person who has a card with a similar proverb. Ask partners to stand together when they have found each other. For each set of partners, one person should have a proverb from the United States and the other person should have a proverb from another country.

After most people have found their partner, ask those who have not found their partner to raise their hands. Ask those with raised hands to search among themselves for partners. When everyone has found their partner, ask each pair to read their proverbs out loud to the group. Ask the person with the proverb from the other country to read first, followed by the person with the proverb from the United States.

Discussion:

This activity shows that although we have many differences when we compare ourselves to other kinds of people, we also have many similarities. We may have different ways of talking and different behavior patterns, but many of our most basic needs and interests are similar.

Proverbs

He makes a wine cellar from one raisin. (Lebanon)

He makes a mountain out of a molehill. (United States)

Even a tiger will appear if you talk about him. (Korea)

Speak of the devil and he will appear. (United States)

God is a good worker, but he loves to be helped. (Spain)

God helps those who help themselves. (United States)

You can force a man to shut his eyes, but you can't make him sleep. (Denmark)

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. (United States)

A little in your own pocket is better than much in another's purse. (Spain)
One bird in the hand is better than two in the bush. (United States)

If you climb up a tree, you must climb down that same tree. (Ghana)

What goes up, must come down. (United States)

From the rain into the gutter. (Germany)

From the frying pan into the fire. (United States)

My house burned down, but it was a relief the bedbugs died. (Korea)

Every cloud has a silver lining. (United States)

He who is not in sight is not in the heart. (Tanzania)

Out of sight, out of mind. (United States)

Two captains sink the ship. (Japan)
Too many cooks spoil the soup. (United States)

By trying often, the monkey learns to jump from the tree. (Zaire)
Practice makes perfect (or, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again). (United States)

A person that arrives early to the spring never gets dirty drinking water. (Zaire)
The early bird gets the worm. (United States)

I will not cry over a mishap and injure my eyes. (Tanzania)

It is no use to cry over spilt milk. (United States)

Trust in God but tie your camel. (Iran)
God helps those who help themselves. (United States)

A sparrow in the hand is better than a cock on the roof. (Russia)

One bird in the hand is better than two in the bush. (United States)

Where something is thin, that's where it tears. (Russia)

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. (United States)

Not everyone who has a cowl on is a monk. (Russia)

Don't judge a book by its cover. (United States)

As you cooked the porridge, so must you eat it. (Russia)

As you sow, so shall you reap. (United States)

Every seed knows its time. (Russia)
All in good time. (United States)