

Reconciliation



Purpose: Engage participants in discussion about the paradoxes of reconciliation by personifying key terms and concepts.

Materials: Four sheets of paper, each with one of the following words written on it boldly...

Truth, Justice, Peace, Mercy

Time: Approximately 1 hour

Age group: 15 years and over

Instructions

1. Divide participants into **four** groups. Each group is given one of the words on a sheet of paper.
2. Have the groups discuss what they think the word means. Together the group members should come up with a **definition** of the word that everyone in the group is happy with.



3. Now **choose a group member** who is going to represent your group by **personifying the word**. For example, "I am justice, and for me to operate well I require clear rules and boundaries... I need to know what is right and wrong..."

Your representative must also prepare answers to the following questions:

- Which of the other people on the panel do you most fear and why?
- Which of the other people would you most like to work with and why?
- How do you see the four of you relating?

4. Ask the representative for each group to come forward and sit on a **panel**.

a) Have each representative introduce him or herself and tell everyone what he/she requires in order to function well.

b) Have the game leader ask each panel representative the following questions:

- Which of the other people on the panel do you most fear and why?
- Which of the other people would you most like to work with and why?
- How do you see the four of you relating?

5. Ask the audience if anyone has **additional questions** for any of the panel members.

At the completion of the game, explain to the participants that there is often a tension between these four concepts which can make peacebuilding and conflict resolution quite challenging.

