

The Bridge or the Wall? — Facilitator Guide

This guide accompanies the interactive peace education module "The Bridge or the Wall?". It is designed for teachers, pastors, facilitators, or community leaders who want to use the module as a tool for dialogue and learning around peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Learning Goals

- Practice bystander intervention in conflict scenarios.
- Explore the impact of rumors and misinformation.
- Consider tensions between safety, trust, and justice.
- Experiment with restorative approaches to harm.
- Reflect on how communities respond to diversity and migration.
- Discern how small choices can shape long-term outcomes.

Module Structure

The module consists of 10 chapters. Each presents a dilemma where participants choose between different responses. Choices adjust three values: Trust, Safety, and Justice. At the end, the community's outcome is revealed based on accumulated scores.

Scenario Notes

Marketplace Argument: Discuss bystander roles: Direct, Delegate, Distract, Delay.

School Conflict: Explore restorative practices vs. punishment or avoidance.

Rumor Mill: Practice rumor hygiene: Verify, Humanize, De-escalate.

Environmental Dispute: Balance economic needs with cultural and ecological values.

Interfaith Gathering: Highlight the importance of inclusion and communication.

Migrant Neighbors: Discuss hospitality, fear, and empathy in welcoming newcomers.

Council Meeting: Contrast short-term security with long-term trust and justice.

Restorative Circle: Introduce restorative justice principles: Name harms, Needs, Agreements, Follow-up.

Community Repair: Celebrate visible acts of cooperation and shared identity.

Debrief Questions

- Which choices felt most natural to you? Which felt difficult?
- How did your values of Trust, Safety, and Justice shift through the game?
- Did you see parallels to your own community or congregation?
- What role did misinformation or rumors play in the story?
- How can restorative practices be applied in your real-life context?
- What does 'building a bridge' look like in your community today?

This module is not meant to provide the 'right' answers but to spark reflection, dialogue, and imagination. The facilitator's role is to guide discussion, invite multiple voices, and help participants connect the story's lessons to their lived reality.