

Planning Lively, Empowering Peace Forums and Workshops

1. Regularly **spend time listening** to the needs and interests, aspirations and hopes of those you wish to reach. What you learn will help you build interest, encourage participation, and plan well.
2. **Ground your efforts in the power of the biblical vision of *Shalom***, peace with justice, and its insights into violence, nonviolence, reconciliation, inclusive community, and the role of group activity in creating lasting change. Consider activities, resources, and theory on these.
3. Design your session to **actively involve participants** and make the best use of time:
 - a. Think first and often of your **audience** (experience, gender, race, class, culture, interests); think **long-term**: how can I help these individuals grow into the full power of biblical peacemaking?
 - b. Choose session **content** and activities to engage your group's interest, open up a new, more helpful vision of peacemaking, teach skills, and encourage participants to want to act, and to grow in *Shalom*.
 - c. Select ways to **build focus** – e.g. with a prayer, biblical text, music, brief intros, story, silence, AV segment – and help participants connect to the goals of the session and to *Shalom* in their lives.
 - d. Choose the best **participatory activities** and review leader material to get the most from each: exercises, pairs, audiovisuals, go-arounds, brainstorming, small groups, role-plays, circles, etc.
 - e. It helps to **facilitate in pairs**: trading off is a great way to develop leadership, present a new face for each point, and give the 'off leader' time to connect, spot questions, note what's working...
 - f. **Plan the flow** of your session to elicit exploration of the heart of your session's content. Write out your agenda and introduction. Use clear handouts and visuals. Vary the session flow between quiet and active, visual and verbal, large and small group activity. Plan realistic times for each topic. Be flexible. End on time and on focus. Offer resources & leader materials for those who want more.
 - g. **Connect session content to action**: ways participants can improve their lives; advocacy activities to make a difference in the world; next steps in learning and building community...
4. Come early to connect with your co-leader and **prepare the learning space**: review your goals and activities, cue up audiovisuals, organize handouts, newsprint/whiteboard, arrange chairs... As folks arrive, give your full attention to meet, listen to, **develop rapport with participants**.
5. During the session, **stay in touch** with your group. Watch for cues that participants get the point, or have questions. Regularly invite feedback (e.g. close with: "one thing I'll take from this session is__")
6. Look for ways to connect with those who show particular interest: invite to join your network and LPF, **encourage their leadership**, think about their next step, share resources, **plan follow-up**.
7. **Grow as a leader** by paying attention to your spiritual life, building your community and support, being active, reading the best authors & training material, attending trainings, supporting other leaders.

Peacemaking Workshops

sample descriptions

The following examples of forums and workshops have been successfully offered as 50-minute adult forums, youth group activities, series of 3 to 8 Sunday morning sessions or evening classes, retreats, and all day and weekend training workshops.

Conflict Transformation: Learn creative, new approaches for dealing with the day-to-day conflicts we all face in our family, workplace, and church groups. This session offers useful insights and skills on How to be a Bridge in a World Full of Walls.

Christian Peacemaking: Promoting neither passivity nor violence, Jesus offers a third way to approach conflict and injustice. This workshop will help us apply Jesus' Way of *Shalom* to conflicts in our lives and world.

Hunger and Conflict: Far more attention and resources go to waging and preparing for war than go to conflict prevention and human needs. This session explores the reasons – and inspiring ways Christians are challenging the scandal of poverty and hunger in a world that has enough for all.

From Violence to Wholeness

This 6 to 10 session series explores the nature of conflict and violence and presents the alternative of Jesus' Way of *Shalom*. If you are interested in exploring a creative, powerful and effective process for addressing and resolving the conflicts in our lives and in the life of the world, this series is for you.

Using participatory activities, audiovisuals, brief readings and small group discussions, we'll explore a vision and practical tools to turn the gospel vision of peace into reality.

For assistance in preparing your workshop or series, feel free to contact Lutheran Peace Fellowship. LPF leads an average of 100 workshops per year for congregation, synod, and churchwide groups. LPF trainers have developed and are happy to share dozens of effective activities, AVs, and resources for effective peace education. LPF also offers Leadership Training and Training for Trainers workshops and retreats.

Equipping for Peacemaking

This five session series explores the nature of conflict and violence in the modern world and a new Gospel-based way of responding.

Using engaging activities, audiovisuals and small groups, we'll explore creative options for facing conflict, and learn new tools to turn Jesus' Way of *Shalom* into reality.

Series topics include the biblical vision of peacemaking, beyond the myths of conflict, stories of hope, conflict transformation skills, advocacy options, and methods of supporting one another in our peacemaking.

A Force More Powerful: This inspiring video series, narrated by Ben Kingsley, serves as the basis for exploring creative nonviolence in Denmark, India, S. Africa, and the US.

Breaking the Silence: One in 3 women has experienced some form of sexual assault; an equal number are abused by a partner or spouse. We will use audiovisuals to explore this reality and teach skills in prevention and intervention from a Christian viewpoint.

The Vision and Challenge of Martin Luther King, Jr.: This session highlights stories and insights from King that help us grasp the liberating power of the gospel for racial reconciliation, building genuine community, and other challenges of today's world. We'll leave with inspiration and practical tips.