



## **Crossing Cultures** **A simulation experience**

**What aspect(s) of the Transformational Model this activity helps illustrate:** Spiritual and Relational Vitality, Global/local Transformation

**Materials needed:** Instruction sheets for each culture group's characteristics and guideline for interaction

**Minimum number of participants required:** 2-4 groups of 6-8 people in each

**Time needed:** at least 30 minutes for the simulation

### **Instructions:**

1. Divide the group into either 2 or 4 smaller groups of 6-8 people.
2. Explain that you will be distributing information sheets that will give each group a set of characteristics and instructions. Tell the small groups they are to read the instructions and prepare for an interaction among culture groups that will occur after the small groups conclude their planning. Allow at least 15 minutes for discussion.
3. Call the groups together and ask culture group #1 to visit and interact with group #2. Call time when the interaction seems to be dying down. Then ask group #3 to visit group #4.
4. Debrief.

### **Debriefing suggestions:**

Utilize **debriefing questions**.

Debrief as a large group or begin with small groups discussing what happened and then reporting their observations back to larger group.

Tie debriefing to a discussion of all the aspects of what makes us who we are (for instance, gender, educational background, family history, phase of life, generational

issues, spiritual development, etc.).

### **Culture Group #1 Instruction Sheet**

Your culture group has the following characteristics: loud, expressive, use big gestures, include lots of physical contact, friendly, open, happy, casual.

As a small group, you must determine culturally appropriate gestures and some kind of verbal expression for (1) a greeting when you first meet someone, (2) how you welcome a newcomer into your group, how you invite them to sit among you and how you show hospitality (or not!), and if you are a visitor how you accept hospitality, (3) how you say good-bye.

As Culture Group #1 you will go to visit Culture Group #2. Using your expressions and gestures, greet them, sit down together, invite them to meet with you in the future, and then leave.

### **Culture Group #2 Instruction Sheet**

Your culture group has the following characteristics: reserve, formal, quiet, ultra-polite, suspicious of strangers.

As a small group you must determine culturally appropriate gestures and some kind of verbal expression for (1) a greeting when you first meet someone, (2) how you welcome a newcomer into your group, how you invite them to sit among you and how you show hospitality (or not!), and if you are a visitor how you accept hospitality, (3) how you say good-bye.

As Culture Group #2 you will serve as a host culture to Culture Group #1. Using your expressions and gestures, greet and welcome them, sit down together, determine what they want and then say good-bye.

### **Culture Group #3 Instruction Sheet**

Your culture group has the following characteristics: very organized, meticulous, proud, almost arrogant, formal, deliberate, martial as if in the military.

As a small group, you must determine culturally appropriate gestures and some kind of verbal expression for (1) a greeting when you first meet someone, (2) how you welcome a newcomer into your group, how you invite them to sit among you and how you show hospitality (or not!), and if you are a visitor how you accept hospitality, (3) how you say good-bye.

As Culture Group #3 you will go to visit Culture Group #4. Using your expressions and gestures, greet them, sit down together, invite them to meet with you in the future, and

then leave.

### **Culture Group #4 Instruction Sheet**

Your culture group has the following characteristics: extremely relaxed, casual, unhurried, slow, not task-oriented, friendly, happy, content.

As a small group you must determine culturally appropriate gestures and some kind of verbal expression for (1) a greeting when you first meet someone, (2) how you welcome a newcomer into your group, how you invite them to sit among you and how you show hospitality (or not!), and if you are a visitor how you accept hospitality, (3) how you say good-bye.

As Culture Group #4 you will serve as a host culture to Culture Group #3. Using your expressions and gestures, greet and welcome them, sit down together, determine what they want and then say good-bye.