

## **Virtue Workshop**

### **Children, Youth and Adults Learning Together**

**Printable resources are included**

**Creators: Diana Metreaud and Ron Tomanio**

## **Healthy Communication**

### **General Introduction**

This Material is designed for workshops/conferences, children's classes, families, and individual learning.

Unless we can make deep spiritual concepts understandable, we risk losing future generations to the distorted thinking of a deteriorating materialistic world..

Each spiritual concept explored includes activities specifically designed for groups of youth and adults and activities designed for children.

It is a method of group learning, based on the model of the oneness of humanity.

Everyone is a student, and everyone is a teacher. Our mission is not to provide exhaustive research and explanation of concepts for scholars. Our goal is to enable everyone to gain a basic knowledge of concepts indispensable for spiritual survival.

It is our hope that parents and teachers gathered in living rooms, backyards; in cities and villages, will use these spiritual concepts to improve the lives of children, youth and adults.

The writers, as members of the Bahá'í Faith, are guided by its teachings and principles. We have used language that allows the concepts to be accessible to the wider community. Reference is made to the sources of authority of the Bahá'í Faith. We are referring to the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Shoghi Effendi and the Universal House of Justice. This material reflects the personal interpretations of the authors and should not be taken as authoritative.

### **Instructions**

Materials listed in the Resource section of each activity, including images, should be carefully prepared. Images can be enlarged and are essential for presentation. If some of the materials listed are not available, facilitators may modify and adapt material to best meet the unique needs of different groups.

Activities for youth/adults may be completed in approximately one hour.

Activities for children are approximately twenty minutes to an hour in length.

## **Adult Activity**

Document with text to be read aloud by participants. Facilitator may choose to use a projector.

Materials in Resource Section

**Facilitator says:** The applicable dictionary definition of a covenant is “**a solemn agreement between members of a church to act together in harmony with the precepts of the gospel.**”

The keywords in this definition are “act together in harmony”. This definition, for a religion such as the Baha’i Faith whose primary goal is world unity, means that its followers must engage in **healthy, respectful communication**. Our goal is not just an agreement, but a respectful agreement that results in spiritual growth for all parties. **The epitome, the gold standard of healthy communication is the relationship between God, the prophets of God and ourselves. This relationship is called the covenant. The communication is eternal, clearly stated, respectful and loving. We are told what is expected of us and what we can expect of God.**

There are additions and subtractions to the laws and precepts of the Covenant that God makes with humanity. What is happening is that the Messengers always try to correct the misunderstandings of the past and give guidance for the future. These are necessary corrections, based on changing world conditions. This can give the impression that there are different and competing religions.

In reality, there is one eternal God and one eternal Covenant as explained by the eternal Prophets of God.

What has changed are the ways we communicate. Now aided by education and technology, the means of communication have been greatly expanded.

**Our challenging goal now is to learn how to communicate in a spiritually healthy manner in a rapidly deteriorating materialistic society.**

It is a formidable challenge. Simply turn on your radio and television and listen. Discourse seems to deteriorate by the day. We are now held to a higher standard of behavior clearly defined by Bahá'u'lláh.

**Not only does what we say matter, but how we say it.**

The covenant brought by Bahá'u'lláh is very powerful. Not because God has become more powerful, but because mankind has matured spiritually to the point that we are now capable of adhering to a higher standard of behavior. Since we have increased in our capacity for understanding the nature of a Covenant, we are being held to a new

level of accountability. What we would expect of a family member who is three years old is not what we would expect of one who is twenty-one years old.

**Facilitator asks:** a participant to read this quotation in a loud voice:

**‘Abdu’l-Bahá states: ‘So firm and mighty is this Covenant that from the beginning of time until the present day no religious Dispensation hath produced its like.’ ”**

- Shoghi Effendi, Bahá’í Reference Library: *God Passes By*:XIV

**Facilitator says:** The human condition is the condition of servitude, and in that condition we remain. The Prophets of God eternally remain Prophets of God.

**Facilitator asks:** a participant to read this quotation in a loud voice:

**“Know thou that the degrees of existence are finite -- the degrees of servitude, of prophethood, and of Divinity -- but that the perfections of God and of creation are infinite.”**

- ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Bahá’í Reference Library: *Some Answered Questions*: 62

**Facilitator says:** This knowledge alone provides clarity about the human condition that we have never had before. It is almost as if mankind was legally blind for thousands of years and then the Divine Physician decided it was time to give us glasses. These glasses allow us to see ourselves and others as fellow servants of God. We should communicate with each other as fellow servants of God with no trace of superiority in our tone of voice or our choice of words.

We are adults now and we need to act as mature adults. We have come of age.

**Facilitator asks:** a participant to read this quotation in a loud voice:

**“The Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh...should...be regarded as signaling through its advent the coming of age of the entire human race”.**

- Shoghi Effendi, Bahá’í Reference Library: From letter dated March 11, 1936:  
*World Order of Bahá’u’lláh*

**Facilitator says:** When we act as a **servant of God**, in harmony with the Covenant of God, we are being aided “by all the forces of the universe”. If we act outside of **our station**, we lose our connection with God and His Prophets. These Prophets are the Sources of guidance for our individual lives.

We also have a unique model for our own identity in the person of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, the Servant of God. He reveals the true power of the Covenant of God: ‘Abdu'l-Bahá knew His station. He clearly understood who He was and who He was not. He knew that He was not God or a Prophet of God. One of His functions was to provide a role model for human behavior so that we too can know who we are and who we are not. Study how ‘Abdu'l-Bahá communicated with others. He exuded kindness and respect whether he was talking with a beggar or a king. There are stories of Him walking out of a gathering because one soul had been hurt.

The wealth of guidance that has been given to us does not mean we will be free of mistakes. Human beings will always make mistakes, but there are mistakes and then there are MISTAKES!

Think about how hurricanes are rated by categories with a category one storm being the least severe. We are going to consider three categories of common mistakes.

**Facilitator asks:** a participant to read the following in a loud voice:

**Category 1 Mistake: Common human mistake:**

**“Dear, you didn’t remember to take out the garbage this morning. I took it out yesterday and today it was your turn.”**

**Or:**

**“ I forgot to fill out my timesheet at work and now I will have to wait a week to get paid!”**

**Facilitator says:** We make mistakes everyday because we are fallible humans. We can remind ourselves that, although we might make a mistake, WE are not a mistake. A Category 1 mistake is a simple human mistake. It does not cause spiritual damage unless someone overreacts.

**Facilitator asks:** Can we think of and share some other category 1 minor mistakes?

**Participants respond**

**Facilitator asks:** a participant to read the following in a loud voice

**Category 2 Mistake: “Playing Prophet” MISTAKE: “My “infallible” interpretation of what the Prophet of my religion said, leads me to believe that you, as my wife, need to be the one who takes out the garbage in our household”.**

**Facilitator says:** Acting and speaking like an infallible Prophet of God definitely causes spiritual damage and degrades our sense of our real identity. This is a serious MISTAKE. It is not just a simple human mistake.

**Facilitator asks:** a participant to read the following in a loud voice

**Mistake Type 3: “Playing God” MISTAKE:**

**“I do not need to rely on the opinions of the Prophets or on God. As far as you are concerned, I am the boss in this house. I’m your God and you will be the only one who will be taking out the garbage!”**

**Facilitator says:** “Playing God” is the most serious MISTAKE. When we make this kind of mistake, we create the farthest distance between ourselves and God. We have lost our sense of who we are -- our identity as a servant of God.

Very few of us actually say these outrageous words out loud. But, if we are honest, most of us have, at times, assumed the false identities of playing Prophet or God in our relationships. The relationship may survive, but it will not be a healthy relationship of equals.

Remember there are mistakes and then there are MISTAKES!

If I have made a MISTAKE by acting and talking like a Prophet or like God, I will feel a million miles away even from the people I love the most. My friends and family will wonder who I am. They will look for my heart, but will not be able to find it.

**They will find a “stranger” as the following Hidden Word explains:**

**Facilitator asks:** a participant to read this quotation in a loud voice

**O SON OF DUST!**

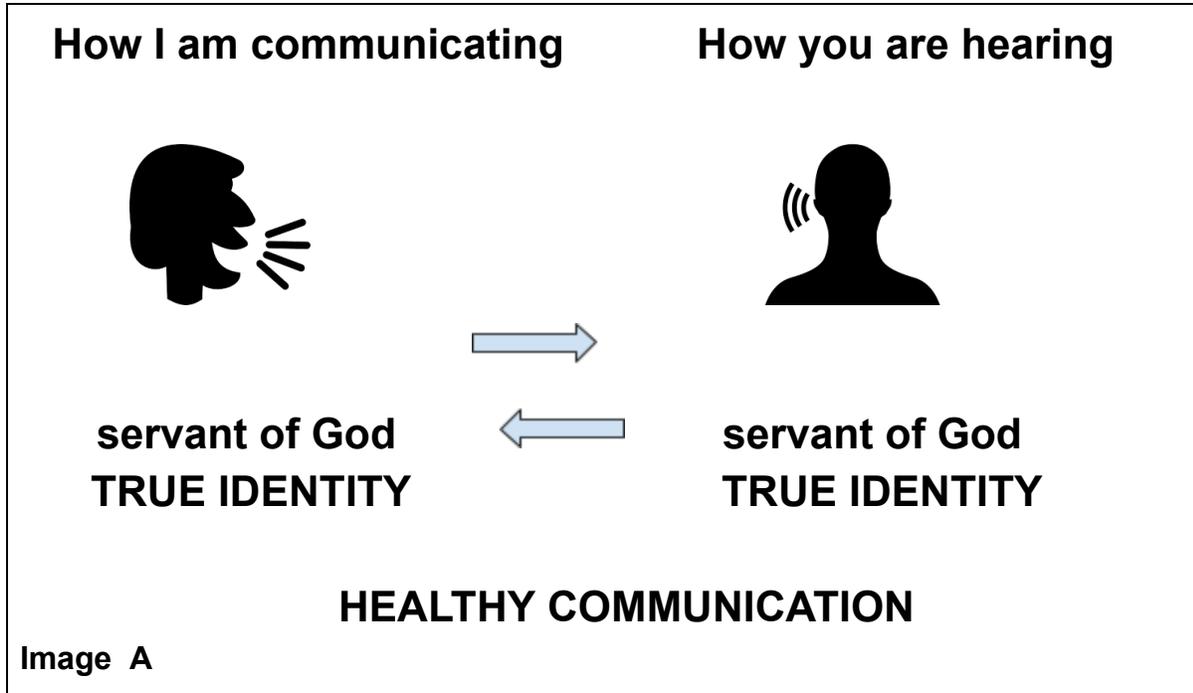
All that is in heaven and earth I have ordained for thee, except the human heart, which I have made the habitation of My beauty and glory; yet thou didst give My home and dwelling to another than Me; and whenever the manifestation of My holiness sought His own abode, **a stranger found He there...**”

- Bahá'u'lláh, Bahá'í Reference Library: *The Hidden Words*: Part One: From the Persian: 27

**Facilitator says:** Mistakes and **MISTAKES** have two parts, because there are two parts to every conversation: What we **SAY** and what the other person **HEARS**. Both communicating and listening are skills which need to be developed. The starting

point is speaking with the words of a servant of God and hearing with the ears of a servant of God.

Facilitator shares image A with participants:



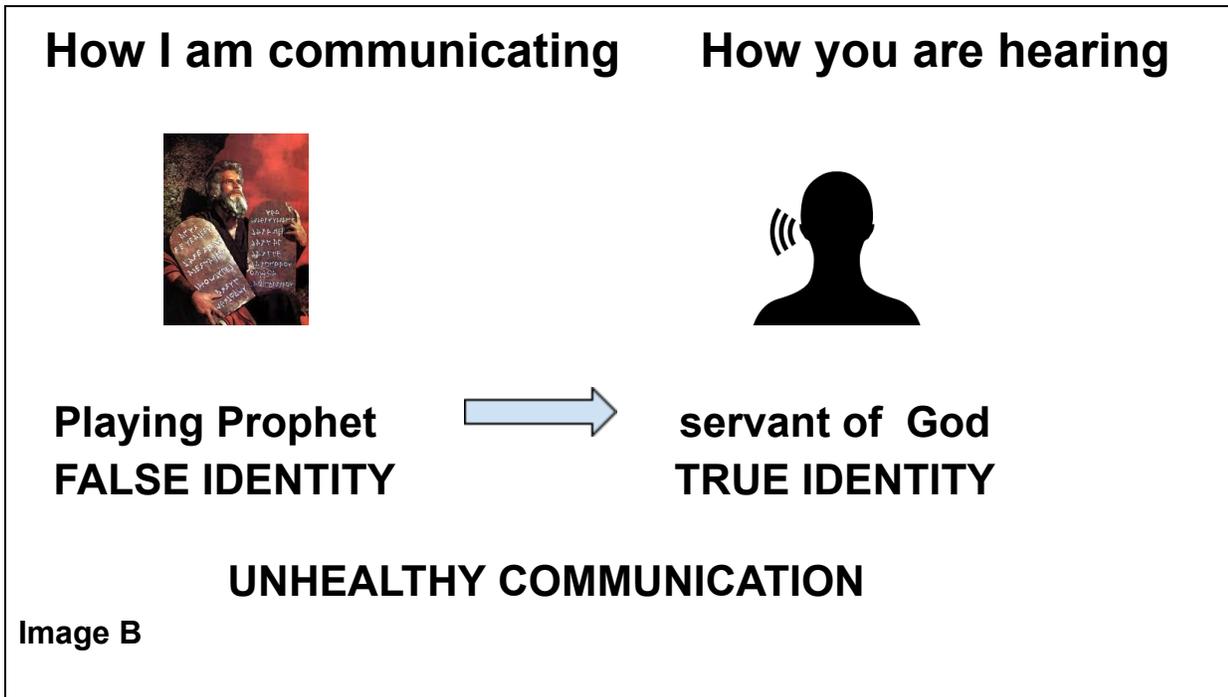
**Facilitator says:** This is ideal communication. Two people are engaged in healthy communication, remaining within their station as servants of God.

**Facilitator asks:** What are a few examples when both parties are interacting as equal servants of God?

**Participants respond** - Allow 2-3 minutes for discussion

**Facilitator says:** When we communicate with another as two equal servants of God, we will both feel like our true selves. We will both feel love and respect for each other.

Facilitator shares image B with participants:



**Facilitator says:** When my spouse, acting as “Prophet Penny” or “Prophet Paul” tells me to take out the trash, although it may be my turn, deep within, I will feel resentful. When I am interacting with someone who has assumed the false identity of prophethood, my own identity as a servant of God becomes threatened. I need people in my life who will reinforce my identity as a servant of God.

**Facilitator asks:** We all have had experiences when we have played prophet and when we have been treated this way a Prophet Penny or Paul

Let’s turn and briefly share our experiences with someone next to us.

**Participants respond** - Allow 2-3 minutes

**Facilitator asks:** How did you feel when you were playing Prophet or when someone was playing Prophet with you?

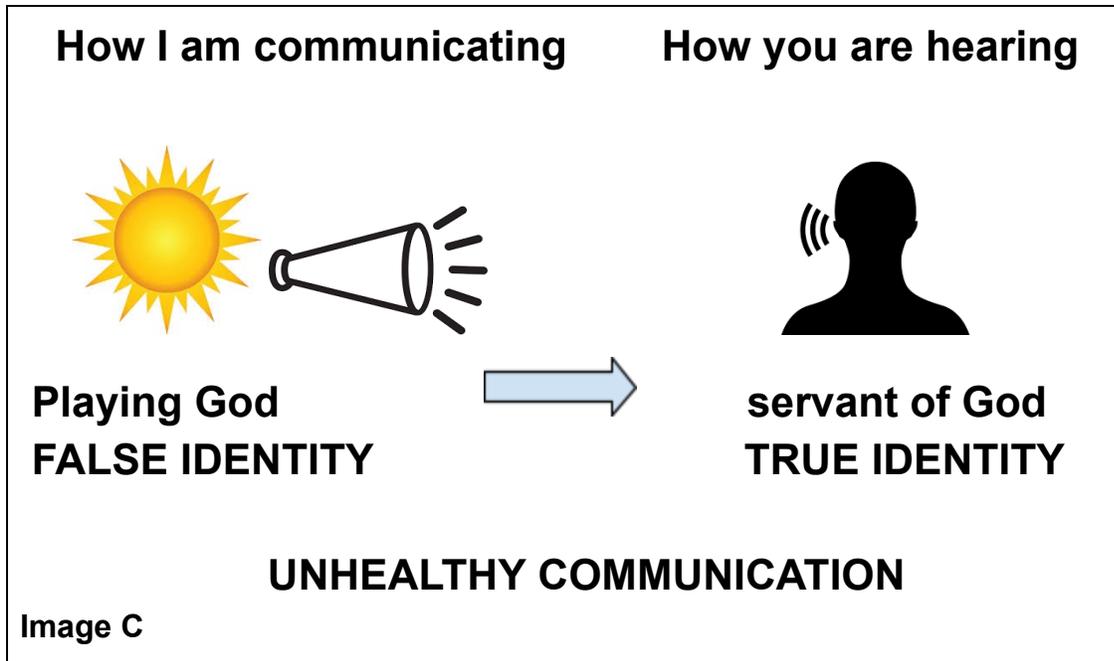
Did you feel like the “real” you or did you feel “superior” or inferior to the other person?

Did it make you feel uncomfortable or even angry?

Now, let’s share with the group.

**Participants respond - Allow 3-5 min**

**Facilitator shares image C with participants:**



**Facilitator says:** Whereas, “Prophet Paul” or “Prophet Penny” at least gives some reason for his or her actions, “God George” feels no need to explain his actions to his insignificant subjects. God George says: “I don’t care what the Prophets taught. You just need to do what I tell you to do. Take out the trash now!”

Or, God George may say to his family: “I don’t need to give any reason. We are moving to Bulgaria next week!”

Knowing “WHO we are”, when we say the same words, DETERMINES if the communication is healthy or unhealthy.

Any of the three identities, servant, Prophet, or God, can say: “Honey, please take out the garbage.”

**Facilitator asks:** Have any of us ever said the correct words but didn’t say them as a servant of God? Can we think of and share some experiences that we have had in which we “played God”

How did we feel when we were playing God? How did people react to us? Turn to someone next to you and share your thoughts.

**Participants respond - Allow two minutes**

**Facilitator says:** There are many possible combinations of real and false identities. Our examples are just a few.

“Playing Prophet” and “Playing God” brings our spiritual development to a screeching halt! At these moments, we create an impenetrable barrier between ourselves and the real Prophet and the real God. Aren’t we saying, “I am my own prophet and my own God”?

The moments when we are in harmony with the Covenant of God are the moments when we act like servants of God.

The moments when we are acting like a Prophet or like God are the moments when we are not in harmony with the Covenant of God.

We must make the same decision daily. Each day when we wake up we must tell ourselves anew: “Today I wish to be part of the Covenant of God. I must act as a servant of God -- Not like a Prophet; Not like God.

**Facilitator asks:** a participant to read the beginning of a prayer in a loud voice:

**“O my God and my Master! I am Thy servant...”** - Bahá'u'lláh - morning prayer

**Facilitator says:** False “multiple identities” degrade all of our relationships.

Luckily, however, we humans have a built-in warning system that protects our identity: We feel hurt and angry when we are not being treated as a fellow servant of God. We feel that our core identity has been threatened.

We are connected to God, the Source of light, by our personal covenant with Him. It is just as lamps are connected to the source of light by a cord.

**Facilitator shares image D** with participants:



**Facilitator asks a participant:** to read this quotation in a loud voice:

**Cling, O ye people of Bahá, to the cord of servitude unto God, the True One, for thereby your stations shall be made manifest, your names written and preserved, your ranks raised and your memory exalted in the Preserved Tablet. Beware lest the dwellers on earth hinder you from this glorious and exalted station.**

- Bahá'u'lláh, Bahá'í Reference Library: *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*

**Facilitator says:** If the electric lamp is not connected to a source of power, it radiates no **physical** light.

If we do not connect to God with "the cord of servitude" we lose our **spiritual** connection to our own self and to the light of God.

When we let go of the cord of servitude, we step over a dangerous line, and begin acting like a Prophet of God, or even like God Himself. We then **fray the "cord of servitude"** that connects us with God.

**Facilitator asks participant** to read the following in a loud voice:

**When we discover our true identity as a servant of God, we are also discovering our real mind and voice.**

**Facilitator shares Image E** with participants:

<b>SERVANT OF GOD</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>SERVANT OF GOD</b>
<b>PLAYING PROPHET</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>SERVANT OF GOD</b>
<b>PLAYING GOD</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>SERVANT OF GOD</b>
<b>PLAYING PROPHET</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>PROPHET</b>
<b>PLAYING GOD</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>GOD</b>
<b>E</b>		

**Facilitator asks:** Which of these relationships are healthy and which are not and why?

**Participants respond - Allow 1-2 minutes**

**Facilitator asks:** What are some words and behaviors which come from unhealthy relationships? \*provide examples as needed

**Participants respond - Allow 1-2 minutes**

**Facilitator says:** These kinds of words and behaviors not only hurt our relationships, but they fray the cord of servitude that connects us with God.

**Facilitator asks:** What are some words and behaviors which come from our healthy relationships?

**Participants respond - Allow 1-2 minutes**

**Facilitator says:** The same words and behaviors that strengthen our relationships with others, are the same words and behaviors that strengthen our relationship with God.

We are going to do an activity in which we will be working together with a partner. To make our partner pairs, first we will form a line in the order of our birthdays.

**Participants respond by forming a line**

**Facilitator says:** starting with the first two people, these will form a pair. The next two people will form a pair, etc. Everyone find your partner. All pairs line up along the wall on this side of the room standing next to each other and facing the opposite side of the room.

**Participants respond**

**Facilitator says:** We will now have to work together to carry an orange across to the other side of the room. We will only be successful if we communicate with each other. This is not an activity that will work just by doing it alone. We have to work with the other person to be successful. Each partner team will stand side by side and will carefully place the orange between their shoulders. When I say go, All the pairs will walk together to the other side of the room and then back here to this side of the room and stand at the same place you started. The goal is to work together. You can only use your hands

to pick up the orange if it drops and place it back between your shoulders. You can not move unless the orange is between your shoulders. This activity is not a race. It is not about getting across the room and back the quickest and winning. It is about working together and trying not to break the bond of communication. Sometimes more than verbal communication will be needed. We have to pay attention to each other's body language to be able to move and work together.

**Facilitator gives:** each pair an orange and asks pairs to place orange between their shoulders.

**Participant pairs respond**

**Facilitator says:** Are all teams ready? Okay, go.

**Participants** cross the room and return back to the starting point.

**Facilitator says:** I will collect the oranges. After I have collected your orange, please return to your seats.

**Participants respond**

**Facilitator says:** Let's talk about our experience working together as partners. What was hard in keeping a bond between you from breaking? What did we do to make it easier to work together?

**Participants respond**

**Facilitator says:** What did we learn about our partner?

**Participants respond**

Facilitator shares Image F with participants:

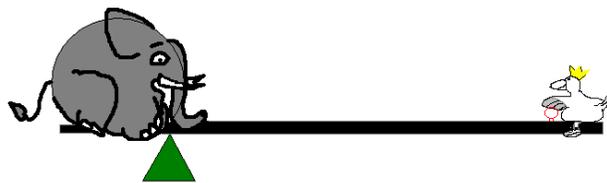


**A GOOD FIT FOR THIS ACTIVITY  
TOGETHER WORKS**

**F**

**Facilitator says:** Each working team of two had to work together to carry the orange across the room. You both had to be equal partners to do the job. You had to communicate. If you didn't stay together, the bond that was connecting you was broken. This happens every day in real life. We have to work with different people all the time. We may work with someone for just a minute or with someone for a long time on a project. Sometimes our partner may not think or move as quickly as we do. Sometimes we will need to be patient and wait for them and help them. Sometimes they will need to be patient and help us. We need to keep a strong connection. We don't want the bond of communication to be broken.

Facilitator shares Image G with participants:



**NOT A GOOD FIT FOR THIS ACTIVITY  
SOMETIMES TOGETHER DOES NOT WORK**

**G**

**Facilitator says:** Once in a while it may be that the communication bond can break because some partners may not be a good fit to work together on that day, at that exact time. One day, the two people may be able to work quite well as equal partners. Tomorrow, the collaboration may not work. It may not be a good fit. Don't make absolute statements about anyone. We all have bad days. These bad days may have nothing to do with who we are working with. It is important to share with others what is going on with us, so we don't damage our relationships.

**Facilitator's closing remarks:** Let's all forever cling to our lifeline -- the cord of servitude that safely connects us with God.

**To the Facilitator and all participants:**

**The physical world has been created by God to teach us deep spiritual concepts. It is the hope of the creators of this activity that we all make the transition as quickly as possible, from being student participants, to being teachers, sharing these ideas with others. Spiritual concepts are the building blocks for an ever-progressing world civilization.**

**Please feel free to adapt this material to best meet the unique needs of different groups.**

## **Children's Activity**

Document with text to be read aloud by participants. Facilitator may choose to use a projector.

Materials in Resource Section

**Note to Facilitator:** On a human level, a covenant is an agreement between two or more people to accomplish a certain purpose.

This activity symbolizes being out of harmony with the Covenant of God. The children will have to work together, moving at the same speed. Any failure to communicate and work together will cause the fragile bond (cord of servitude to God) to break.

**Facilitator says:** We will be working together with a partner. To make our partner pairs, first we will make a line in order by the first letter of our first name. We will form a line using alphabetical order.

**Participants respond by forming a line.** Facilitator may help arrange participants

**Facilitator says:** starting with the first two people, these will form a pair. The next two people will form a pair, etc. Everyone find your partner. All pairs line up along the wall on this side of the room standing next to each other and facing the opposite side of the room. Each pair will be given a strip of toilet tissue. Each strip will be the same length. Partners will carefully unroll the paper strip and then each person holds one end. When I say go, All the pairs will walk together to the other side of the room and then back here to this side of the room and stand at the same place you started. Even when you are being very careful, your paper strip may break. Don't worry. Just keep going.

**Facilitator gives each pair a strip of toilet tissue, approximately 1 meter in length.**

**Note to Facilitator:** - Some pairs of participants succeed in completing activity without breaking fragile paper bond and some will be unsuccessful.

**Facilitator says:** Are all teams ready? Okay, go.

**Participants** cross the room and return back to the starting point.

**Facilitator says:** I notice some of the paper strips have broken and some have not.

**Facilitator asks:** What are some reasons that the paper strip being carried back and forth by some of our teams broke and what were some reasons that the paper strip did not break? What did we learn from how our teams walked together?

### **Participants respond**

**Facilitator says:** Some of our teams were better able to walk together in unity and the paper didn't break. The connection between them was strong.

We are going to repeat the activity, but this time we will all use a stronger paper strip. Partners will carefully unroll the paper strip and then each person holds one end. When I say go, all the pairs will walk together to the other side of the room and then back here to this side of the room and stand at the same place you started.

**Facilitator gives:** each pair a strip of crepe party streamer paper, approximately 1 meter in length.

**Participants respond** by unrolling paper strips and each holding onto an end.

**Facilitator says:** Are all teams ready? Okay, go.

Participants cross the room and return back to the starting point.

**Facilitator asks:** What was different this time? Were more people successful in not breaking the paper strip?

### **Participants respond**

**Facilitator says:** Partners learned to work better together. They learned to communicate better. They learned to walk in unity. The connection between the two partners has been made stronger. The paper strips we used in our activity are symbols of a very special connection we make with friends and with our family and with God. We don't want to ever lose our connections with them. Every time we do something together in the right way -- in unity -- we strengthen our friendship with other people. We also strengthen our connection to God and our friendship with God. We also feel better about ourselves.

**Note to Facilitator:** Depending on the age of the children, it can be further explained that this connection between them is also symbolic of their connection to the Covenant between God and each person. A Covenant is an agreement between two or more

people to accomplish a certain purpose. On a spiritual level, a covenant is an agreement between the servants of God and God.

**Facilitator says:** We are going to change partners and then work together again. Everyone will now form one long line again on this side of the room.

### **Participants respond**

**Facilitator says:** This time we will make new partner pairs by forming a line in order of our birthdays. If you don't know when your birthday is, you can stand at the end of the line.

**Participants respond** by forming a line. Facilitator may help arrange participants.

**Facilitator says:** Starting with the first two people, these will form a pair. The next two people will form a pair, etc. Everyone find your partner. All pairs line up along the wall on this side of the room standing next to each other and facing the opposite side. We will now have to work together to carry some objects across to the other side of the room. We will only be successful if we communicate with each other. We can tell our partner to slow down or together we adjust our bodies to keep from dropping our object. This is not an activity that will work just by doing it alone. We have to work with the other person to be successful. Each pair will be given an orange. Each partner team will stand side by side and will carefully place the orange between their shoulders. When I say go, All the pairs will walk together to the other side of the room and then back here to this side of the room and stand at the same place you started. The goal is to work together. It is okay if you drop the orange. You can only use your hands to pick up the orange if it drops and place it back between your shoulders. You can not move unless the orange is between your shoulders. This activity is not a race. It is not about getting across the room and back the quickest and winning. It is about working together and trying not to break the bond of communication.

**Facilitator gives:** each pair an orange

**Participant pairs respond** by placing orange between their shoulders.

**Facilitator says:** Are all teams ready? Okay, go.

Participants cross the room and return back to the starting point.

**Facilitator says:** Please sit down with your partner where you are. I will collect the oranges and we will talk about our experience of working together.

### **Participants respond**

**Facilitator collects:** oranges

**Facilitator says:** Let's talk about our experience working together as partners. What was hard in keeping a bond between you from breaking?

What did we do to make it easier to work together? What did we learn from our partners?

### **Participants respond**

**Facilitator says:** Each team of two had to work together to carry the orange across the room. You both had to be equal partners to do the job. You had to communicate with words and with your bodies. If you didn't stay together the bond that was connecting you was broken.

This happens every day in real life. We have to work with different people all the time. We may work with someone for just a minute or with someone for a long time on a project. Sometimes our partner may not think or move as quickly as we do. Sometimes we will need to be patient and wait for them and help them. Sometimes they will need to be patient and help us. We need to keep a strong connection. We don't want the bond of communication to ever be broken.

**Facilitator says:** We will work together with our new partners one more time. We will now carry another object across the room and back. It should be easier working together because we are becoming experts in communication.

This time we will stand back to back with our partner. Each pair will be given a balloon. They will place the balloon between their backs and together move it across the room. They will form a strong bond of communication. They will try not to break the bond between them. This time, we will not talk to our partner. We will not communicate with any words. Instead, we will only be able to use our body language to communicate how to move together. Again, you can only use your hands to pick up the balloon and replace it between your backs. You can not move unless the balloon is between your backs.. Remember, this is not a race. It is not about being the fastest. It is about working together and trying not to break the bond of communication. Stand up with your same partners.

**Facilitator gives:** each pair an inflated balloon

**Participant pairs respond** by placing balloons between their backs.

**Facilitator says:** Are all teams ready? Okay, go.

**Participants** cross the room and return back to the starting point.

**Facilitator says:** Please sit down with your partner. I will collect the balloons and we will talk about our experience of working together.

**Participants respond**

**Facilitator collects:** balloons in a large bag

**Facilitator says:** We have worked together four times. Was it easier to work together this last time?

What did we learn about communicating with our partners?

**Participants respond**

Did we do anything different this time, since we could not use our words to communicate?

**Participants respond**

**Facilitator says:** That's exactly right. Teams had to communicate to work together. If one partner was so excited and tried to do the job by himself or herself, the connection was broken and the job didn't get done. Communication in friendship with our friends and our family and with God is the most important. We must try to pay attention when we are working together so that our bond of unity in communication is not broken. We can see and feel what small corrections we both need to make when we communicate with each other.

**Facilitator shares Image F with participants**

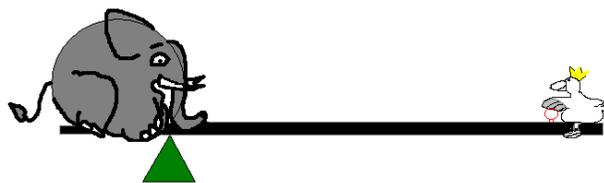


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TOGETHER WORKS**

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**Facilitator says:** Once in a while it may be that the communication bond can break because some partners may not be a good fit to work together on that day at that exact time. One day the two people may be able to work quite well as equal partners. On another day, it may not be a good fit. We all have bad days. These bad days may have nothing to do with who we are working with. It is important to share with others what is going on with us, so we don't damage our friendships.

**Facilitator shares Image G with participants:**



**NOT A GOOD FIT FOR THIS ACTIVITY  
SOMETIMES TOGETHER DOES NOT WORK**

**G**

**Facilitator's closing remarks:** If we try to live life close to God, we need to say our prayers and listen to what God and our parents teach us every day. Then we will have a stronger connection to our families and to God.

**Facilitator asks:** What can we do to keep a strong connection to our families?

**Participants respond**

**Facilitator asks:** What can we do to keep a strong connection to God?

**Participants respond**

**Resources:**

**Adult Activity**

**Materials:**

Large oranges - Enough for one for each two people

**Images: A,B,C,D,E,F,G**

**Children' Activity**

**Materials:**

1-2 rolls of toilet tissue. - length of approximately 1 meter per each two participants

1-2 rolls of crepe paper party streamer - length of approximately 1 meter per each two participants

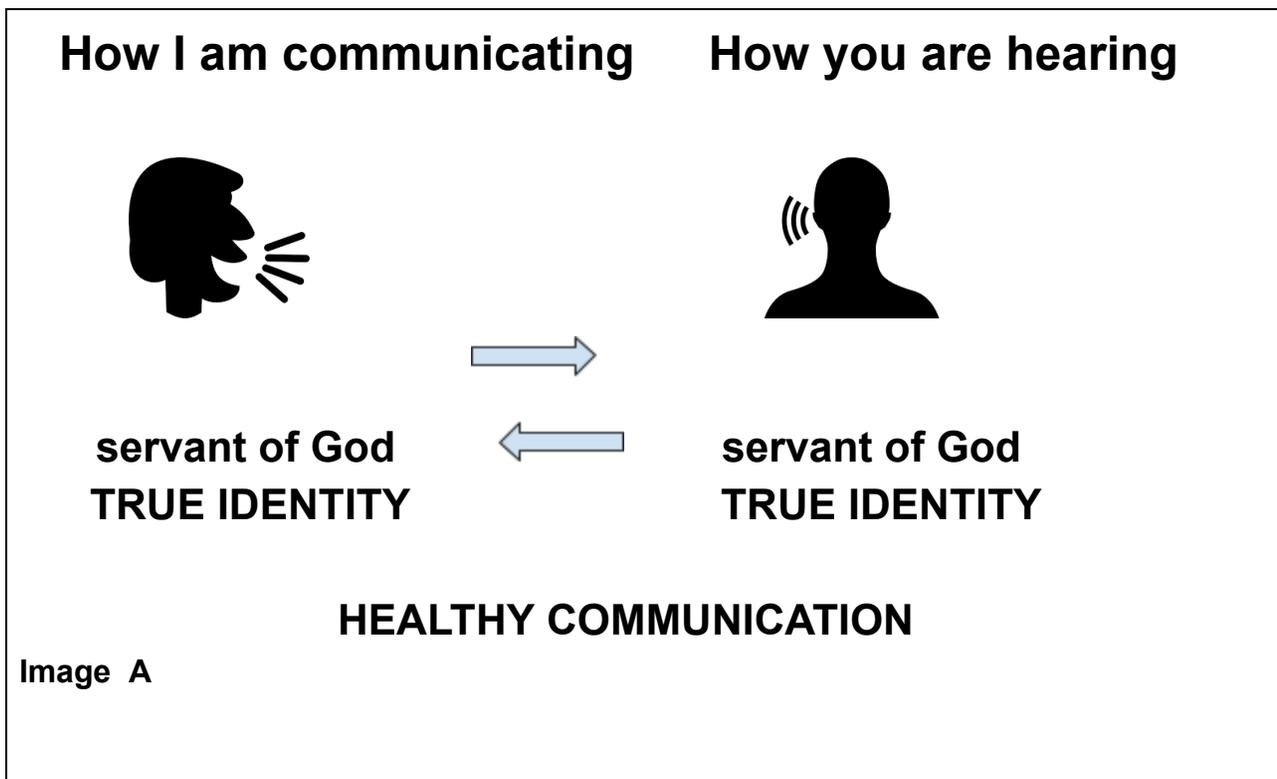
Large oranges - enough for one for each pair of participants

Medium sized inflated balloons - enough for one for each pair of participants

Large bag to hold balloons

**Images: F-G**

**Images:**



**How I am communicating**

**How you are hearing**



**Playing Prophet  
FALSE IDENTITY**



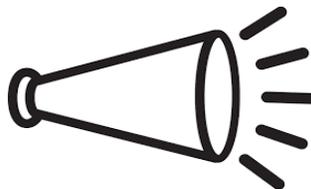
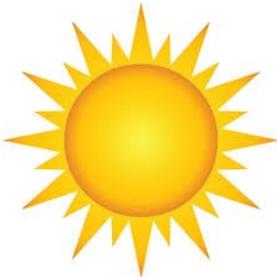
**servant of God  
TRUE IDENTITY**

**UNHEALTHY COMMUNICATION**

Image B

**How I am communicating**

**How you are hearing**



**Playing God  
FALSE IDENTITY**



**servant of God  
TRUE IDENTITY**

**UNHEALTHY COMMUNICATION**

Image C



**DON'T FRAY THE "CORD OF SERVITUDE"  
THAT CONNECTS US WITH GOD**

Image D

**SERVANT OF GOD TO SERVANT OF GOD**

**PLAYING PROPHET TO SERVANT OF GOD**

**PLAYING GOD TO SERVANT OF GOD**

**PLAYING PROPHET TO PROPHET**

**PLAYING GOD TO GOD**

**Image E**



**A GOOD FIT FOR THIS ACTIVITY  
TOGETHER WORKS**

Image F



**NOT A GOOD FIT FOR THIS ACTIVITY  
SOMETIMES TOGETHER DOES NOT WORK**

Image G