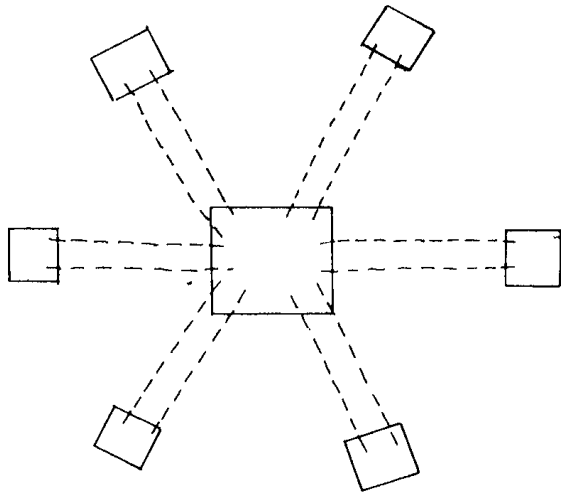


We Are Bridge Builders

Here's a good program idea dealing with the topic of reconciliation, both our being reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and being called to be reconcilers ourselves.

Begin with some fun games and maybe some singing, and then divide the group into bridge-building teams, with six or seven students on each team. The teams can be larger or smaller, depending on your group. Then give each team lots and lots of Popsicle sticks-the more the better. They are not expensive so make sure you get enough. Also provide tape or quick-drying glue for each team.

In the center of the room place a cardboard box. Each team gets an additional smaller box which they place about four or five feet from the cardboard box in a circle.



Each team is then instructed to build a bridge from its box to the box in the middle, using the Popsicle sticks, tape, and glue only. All the bridges would then be joined together (reconciled).

This activity can produce total participation, a lot of creativity, and plenty of laughs. Encourage any extras that youths might want to add, such as toll booths, cars, and so on. You might offer a special prize to any group whose bridge will support a toy truck or something like that. Follow the whole thing up with a discussion of the unexpected things that happened during the process. There will be many insights on "bridge building" that you just can't get any other way.

Bruce MacCullough

