

## Experience injustice – a game to the theme World Trade

This role play simulates unfair trade structures and the participants get the possibility for a practice based introduction to this aspect of the theme 'Globalisation'.

### Time and idea of the game:

Aim of the game is to get as many points as possible by swapping. As swop material, there are coloured pearls which have different values according to their colour and with which it is traded according to given swop rules and in several rounds of swapping.

### Preparation of game:

- The pearls are distributed in two bags in the way that in one bag there are mainly pearls of high value and in the other bag are mainly pearls of low value.
- The rules for trading and the values of the pearls are written on a flipchart paper and hang up visible for all participants.
- Further more there should be a board, flipchart or something similar where the score is noted. This is also possible with a laptop, data projector and Excel.
- There are prepared three tables. On the first table, sweets and different drinks will be served, on the second bread and water and on the third only water.

### How to play:

- The idea and the aim of the game as well as the swop rules and the values of the pearls are explained to the participants.
- First swop round:
  - Every participant draws five pearls from one of the two bags. The result will be that some participants will only have high-valued pearls in their hand, whereas the other part of participants will only have low-valued pearls.
  - After all the participants have drawn five pearls, the first round of swapping will start according to the swop rules given below. This swop round as well as every other round is limited, e.g. to 5 minutes.
  - At the end of the round, all participants calculate their points. They will be noted on a board. From these results, a ranking list will be produced: the participant with most points will be the first and the participant with the fewest points will be the last on the list.
  - Now three groups are built up. The first third of the ranking list will be group 1, the middle third will be group 2 and the last third will be group 3. The participants write their group number on a piece of sticky paper and put it visible on their T-Shirt.
  - From now on until the end of the game, group 1 has the right to help themselves from the table with the sweets and the soft drinks. Group 2 is allowed to help themselves from the table with bread and water and group 3 from the table only with water.
  - During the calculation and the allocation of groups, another helper collects all the pearls and distributes them again unequally into the two bags. This should be done in a way, that the participants do not note that the pearls are distributed unequally into the bags.
- Second swop round:
  - Again every participant draws five pearls from one of the two bags. In doing so, it is important that the participants of group 1 draw pearls from the bag with the high-valued pearls and participants of group 2 and 3 draw pearls from the bag with the low-valued bag. For this, it is helpful that the members of one group sit together.

- From this round on, group 1 is allowed to define two new rules which will be value during the whole game. It is also possible to change existing rules or to substitute given rules through new ones. Group 2 and 3 are allowed to make suggestions, but the final decision is taken by group 1. The rules will be written down, visible for everybody.
- The second swop round begins for which the old and the new rules are valid. Also this round is limited in time, e.g. 5 minutes.
- At the end of the second round, the participants again calculate their points. These points are added to the points of the first round. By these sums, a new ranking list is built.
- It can now happen that participants have to change the group when they, according to the new ranking list, are not anymore part of their original third. E.g. when someone was in the upper third after the first swop round and was therefore in group 1, is now, after the second round, gone down to the middle third, she/he has to change to group 2. According to this, there should also be someone who has to change from group 2 to group 1. These two participants exchange their sticky paper with their group number.
- Also in the second round, the two bags will be refilled unequally during the evaluation of the points.
- Third swop round and all further rounds
  - The third and all further rounds continue as the second round.
  - Presumably the inequality between the groups will be fixed after the third or fourth round. Therefore, it is now possible to refill the bags in an equal manner.
  - The game can continue according to the available time and the enthusiasm of the participants. It is up to the game leader to find the right time – already in the preparation but also during the game – to end the game.

### Swop rules

- The participants hold their pearls concealed in their hands.
- Who wants to start a swop business, walks to a person and shakes her/his hand. The counterpart has to accept the offer for negotiation.
- You can let go hands only when the swop business is finished or if the time of the swop round is over. This means swop negotiations must not be broken off if there is not a swop result.
- It is not allowed to swop pearls of the same value, e.g. three blue pearls for three blue pearls.
- Per swop round, it is only allowed to swop with the same person once.
- It is not allowed to swop with the members of your own group.
- Who does not want to swop anymore, fold their arms and is out for the current swop round.
- It is only allowed to speak with the game leader or with the current swop partner.

### Values of the pearls

- Red pearls – 50 points
- Yellow pearls – 30 points
- Blue pearls – 10 points
- White pearls – 5 points
- Black pearls – 1 point

You can get extra points if you have several pearls of the same colour. These extra points will be added to the sum of the pearls' value.

- 5 pearls of the same colour – 30 points
- 4 pearls of the same colour – 10 points
- 3 pearls of the same colour – 5 points

## Material

- Pearls or alternatively sweets, marbles or similar material
  - 10 red pearls
  - 10 yellow pearls
  - 40 blue pearls
  - 40 white pearls
  - 40 black pearls
- 2 bags, e.g. linen bags
- Flipchart, Eddings
- board or notebook with Excel and data projector
- sticky tape
- sweets, soft drinks, bread and water

## Evaluation of game

Through the evaluation the participants should reflect on the just made experience of unjust structures and the associated feelings, reactions and behaviour. At the same time, there should be a transfer of the experience to global interrelations and the relation of the rich industrial nations and the poor so-called developing countries.

At the beginning, there can be a quick feedback round in which everybody tells shortly about his/her first impression. This first impression is heard by the others and will not be commented.

The evaluation can further deepened with the following questions:

- How did I experience myself?
- How did I experience my group / the other groups?
- How did I or we as group deal with injustice, dependencies and / or power / powerlessness?
- Which strategies of solution did I / we as group develop?
- Was I / were we defensive or offensive? Did I / we resign or fight?
- Which chances / possibilities / freedom of action did I myself or we as group have?
- How did we deal with rules? And why?
- How can the experiences be transferred to my own life? How on global interrelations?
- Which consequences do I draw for my own life? Which consequences should be drawn on political level?

This game is a part of “Just people? The Micah course”. It is a course for church communities and groups in which Christians discover together how charity and responsibility in times of globalisation can be seen. Six sessions in which it is looked deeper into global poverty, in which it is shown the biblical basics for commitment and in which there are also concrete suggestions what the single person but also the whole community can do. It is in German and you can get it under: [www.micha-initiative.de](http://www.micha-initiative.de).