



DREAM
.ORG

Agenda Overview

BRI Conference, July 2023

- Agenda Review
- Core Values
- Revolutionary Love
- Activity: Ripples
- Strategic Common Ground
- BREAK
- Pair Shares
- Activity: Common Ground Bingo
- Courageous Conversations
- Take Home Tools
- Closing Activity



Core Values



Peak Experience Pair Share

Share Experience 5 minutes

Who was there?
What does that mean for you?
What was your part in what happened?
What makes it so important? •
What feelings do you associate with the experience?

Clarify & Reflect 5 minutes

Partner two asks clarifying questions.

Partner two repeats back key concepts, ideas and values they heard

Define values 5 minutes

Both partners work together to identify core values.

Rank key ideas. Narrow to three.

SWITCH



**We must love people for their
alternate moral bases, not in
spite of them.**



Revolutionary Love



*What information does my
rage carry?*



*How do I listen to an
opponent?*



*What is the beloved
community to me?*

Wonder

“Seeing no stranger begins in wonder. It is to look upon the face of anyone and choose to say: You are a part of me I do not yet know. Wonder is the wellspring for love... It is easy to wonder about the internal life of the people closest to us. It is harder to wonder about people who seem like strangers or outsiders. But when we choose to wonder about people we don’t know, when we imagine their lives and listen for their stories, we begin to expand the circle of who we see as part of us. We prepare ourselves to love beyond what evolution requires.”

“Wonder is where love begins, but the failure to wonder is the beginning of violence. Once people stop wondering about others, once they no longer see others as part of them, they disable their instinct for empathy. And once they lose empathy, they can do anything to them, or allow anything to be done to them. Entire institutions built to preserve the interests of one group of people over another depend on this failure of imagination.”

Revolutionary Love



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Reimagine

To reimagine is to explore a vision of a relationship, community, and world where we all flourish. Reimagining means that we're doing more than resisting our opponents. We are looking at the cultures that radicalize them and institutions that authorize them. This is the moment to declare what is obsolete, what can be reformed, and what must be reimagined. Reimagining focuses us not just on what we are fighting against, but the future that we are fighting for.



When we look back through history, our greatest social reformers did more than resist oppressors. They held up a vision of the world as they dreamt it.



Activity: Ripples

BRI Conference, July 2023

1. Identify the Ripples
2. For every ripple, who do you know?
3. Invite them in
4. Keep your ears open



Strategic Common Ground

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2. Engaging unlikely allies creates “aha” moments.
3. Engaging unlikely allies provides pathways for every person to be a changemaker.

Quick Story...

In Sarasota, Florida, a restaurant owner heard that during the summer months, many school-aged kids move backwards in their ability to read. In part, that is because school is out. In part, though, it is because they are hungry.

Why hungry? Because over half of all children in America receive breakfast and lunch as part of school lunch programs. When school is out, those kids have no food.

John and Amanda Horne own the Sarasota area chain of restaurants, Anna Maria Oyster Bar. Their “I never thought of that!” moment led them to contact The Patterson Foundation, coordinators of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade Level Reading. “We want to open our restaurant to kids in the mornings, giving them free meals. And our guests and friends will volunteer to read to the kids while they eat!”

Anna Maria’s vendors got involved, donating food. Community members got involved, reading to the kids. What started as a way to give back and get involved has become a full-fledged program – Dive Into Reading – developed and run entirely by the restaurant.

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4. Engaging unlikely allies helps us meet people where they are

Strategic Common Ground

1. Engaging unlikely allies makes your cause personal for people who never cared before.
2. Engaging unlikely allies creates “aha” moments.
3. Engaging unlikely allies provides pathways for every person to be a changemaker.
4. Engaging unlikely allies helps us meet people where they are
5. Victories that include unlikely allies are durable



**Complete consensus
can't be a prerequisite for
collaboration**



Common Ground Bingo

FOR YOUR CHART:

Communities I belong to

Identities I claim

Names I give myself



Before you start

- Define your core values
- Center on your intentions
- Don't force it
- Be flexible
- Practice compassion (and self-compassion)
- It's an ongoing journey



Leading requires love.

Collaboration requires courage.



Disagreement vs. Polarization

Polarization is not the same as disagreement about how to solve public policy problems; those disagreements are natural, even healthy, in a democracy. Polarization is about more than just having a different opinion than your neighbor about certain issues. Polarization occurs when we refuse to live next to a neighbor who doesn't share our politics, or when we won't send our children to a racially integrated school.

From the Bridging Differences Playbook
Greater Good Science Project



**Common ground is often found
in uncommon places**

