

Village Peacemaking Discernment Guide

Besides some special church-wide initiatives, peacemaking at Pangea Church happens in the context of Villages. A Village is a group of 8-18 friends who meet regularly throughout the year for encouragement, challenge, transformation, sermon-based discussion, fun, and prayer. One of Pangea's core values is to "practice nonviolence and contend for others," and we believe that it is within our Village communities where our relationships and discussions can then translate into tangible peacemaking efforts in our city. Jesus created incredible good on earth during his lifetime, and much of it was done with a small, intimate community of twelve. We have faith that we can also do the same.

EXPECTATIONS

- Every person in a Village shares in the peacemaking practices of that Village.
- Villages require consistency and intentionality.
- Each Village group will settle on a peacemaking initiative by the 3rd week of a given Trimester.
- Peacemaking should live in the tension of two realities: sacrifice and practicality. Peacemaking is usually costly in nature. Peacemaking is easily over-idealized in small group settings, however, and must be practical given the real-life flow of a group. In other words, if an initiative is going to add hours and hours beyond normative Village rhythms, this might be a red flag depending on the people in the group. Discernment is key!
- Peacemaking projects should have at least two coordinators so that no one is stuck with all the extra work involved.

GUIDE

- Week 2: This is when you will have a 20-minute brainstorming session.
 - Everyone should know a week ahead of time that this will be taking place, so that everyone comes with ideas already in mind.
 - No one should be married to their particular idea or be offended if their idea isn't the one that is finally chosen. A group setting means that we have in mind whatever is best for the group as a whole, to ignite it to make the greatest impact possible.
 - Peacemaking ideas that fit naturally into the flow of normal Village group meetings are often ideal.
 - One group, for a season, has met at the church to do meal prep for Edible Hope before sitting together to engage in sermon-based conversation and prayer.
 - Another group may be doing some sort of clothing collection for a local shelter, which requires a closet purge and/or shopping, but can be sorted out in regular meeting times as well.
 - Peacemaking ideas that require time outside of regular meetings should include most of the committed Village participants.
 - Some ideas: a service project day (perhaps a Saturday morning), cleaning up yards, partnering with a local nonprofit as volunteers, etc.

- After the brainstorming session, come up with a way to stay in dialogue about ideas throughout the week. Have needed side conversations and follow ups so that by the time week 3 comes, most of the tangents have been explored. You really want to be able to focus during week 3 and come to an actionable peacemaking plan!
- Week 3: Finalize, as a group, what the peacemaking initiative will be for the rest of the Trimester.
 - Which ideas should we log as potential future peacemaking initiatives (things to revisit during the next Trimester's brainstorming session)?
 - Which idea will we all get around, even though my idea may not have been chosen?
 - Again, really feel out the tension between sacrifice and practicality. Is an idea too big to really make happen in this season of our Village? Or, do we need to lean into peacemaking with a bit more self-challenge?
 - Which two people in the group will take the organizational lead?
 - What target dates do we need to keep in mind so that our initiative is carried out in creative ways?
 - How might we see this peacemaking initiative as an extension and expression of Pangea Church?