**Resources:**

A set of paired “Proverb Cards” on index cards. Proverbs could also be written or printed on small slips of paper.

**Approximate Time:**

15-20 minutes

**Purpose:**

Participants will discover that, in many ways, people from different cultures and

backgrounds hold similar beliefs and values regarding life.

**Directions:**

In advance, print the pairs of proverbs on the next page on index cards so that each

proverb appears on a separate card. An alternative to this approach would be to print

the proverbs on slips of paper, fold the paper, and have participants “pull” a proverb

from a basket, bag, etc.

1. Count the number of participants in the group and select enough cards to equal the number of participants. If there is an uneven number of participants, the leader must participate in this activity.
2. Make sure that the cards are selected in matching pairs (one card with a proverb from the United States and one card with a similar proverb from another country).
3. Mix up the cards and pass out one card to each participant. When all cards have been distributed, ask participants to move around and find the person who has a card with a similar proverb.
4. Ask partners to stand together when they have found each other. For each set of partners, one person should have a proverb from the United States and the other person should have a proverb from another country.
5. After most people have found their partner, ask those who have not found their partner to raise their hands. Ask those with raised hands to search among themselves for partners.
6. When everyone has found their partner, ask each pair to read their proverbs out loud to the group. Ask the person with the proverb from the other country to read first, followed by the person with the proverb from the United States.

**Modification:**

For online format, use a poll option to challenge participants. Give a proverb from

another country and offer multiple choices from United States proverbs.

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| **He makes a mountain out of a molehill. (United States)** | **He makes a wine cellar from one**  **raisin. (Lebanon)** |
| **Every cloud has a silver lining. (United States)** | **My house burned down, but it was a**  **relief the bedbugs died. (Korea)** |
| **Speak of the devil and he will appear.**  **(United States)** | **Even a tiger will appear if you talk**  **about him. (Korea)** |
| **God helps those who help themselves. (United States)** | **God is a good worker, but he loves to**  **be helped. (Spain)** |
| **Out of sight, out of mind. (United**  **States)** | **He who is not in sight is not in the**  **heart. (Tanzania)** |
| **Practice makes perfect (or, if at first**  **you don’t succeed, try, try again).**  **(United States)** | **By trying often, the monkey learns to**  **jump from the tree. (Zaire)** |
| **You can lead a horse to water, but you**  **can’t make him drink. (United States)** | **You can force a man to shut his eyes,**  **but you can’t make him sleep.**  **(Denmark)** |
| **God helps those who help themselves. (United States)** | **Trust in God but tie your camel. (Iran)** |
| **It is no use to cry over spilt milk.**  **(United States)** | **I will not cry over a mishap and injure**  **my eyes. (Tanzania)** |
| **One bird in the hand is better than**  **two in the bush. (United States)** | **A little in your own pocket is better**  **than much in another’s purse. (Spain)** |
| **As you sow, so shall you reap. (United**  **States)** | **As you cooked the porridge, so must**  **you eat it. (Russia)** |
| **What goes up, must come down.**  **(United States)** | **If you climb up a tree, you must climb**  **down that same tree. (Ghana)** |
| **From the frying pan into the fire.**  **(United States)** | **From the rain into the gutter.**  **(Germany)** |
| **The early bird gets the worm. (United**  **States)** | **A person that arrives early to the spring never gets dirty drinking water. (Zaire)** |
| **Too many cooks spoil the soup.**  **(United States)** | **Two captains sink the ship. (Japan)** |