



Symbols of Hope

Two hopeful communication activities
for both the real and virtual worlds, by
Jim Cain, www.teamworkandteamplay.com



This is the third virtual teambuilding activity I've created this year, during the global coronavirus pandemic. After talking with family, friends and colleagues in other parts of the world, I decided that what we need most is HOPE. Tons and tons of hope. So here is my latest contribution, a teambuilding activity, focused on communication that works well in both the real world and in the virtual one.

On the following page, you will find twenty symbols and translations of the English word HOPE.

hope /hōp/ noun. *A feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.*

I suggest cutting the following page into twenty individual pieces and sharing one piece with everyone in your group. In the real world, you can hand a piece to each player. In virtual space, you can email, text or otherwise correspond with other players using your social media communication method of choice.

After delivering one of the symbols of hope to each participant, invite players, one at a time, to communicate to the rest of the group how to draw that particular symbol or translation on a piece of paper or index card. Then, when everyone has completed their drawing, invite everyone to share their image, as the speaker for that round also reveals the symbol or translation they have on their piece of paper.

Obviously, the challenge here is for the speaker in each round to successfully communicate the details of their image or translation, so that others can replicate it. Speakers can describe their image in any way they like, with the exception of actually showing their image to others.

You can debrief this activity after each round or after several rounds. Questions can include: *What is your personal symbol of hope?* (the coming of spring, a tree in blossom after a long winter, the sound of birds chirping, the first flower blooming). *What sign(s) do you associate with hope?* *What are you hopeful for?* *What gives you hope?* *Did your drawing accurately reflect that of the speaker?* *Is that because hope is a little different for every person?* *How could our vision of hope be more accurate?* *How can we communicate better during these tough times?* *How can we communicate hope to those in our group, our family, our community and our lives?* *What is your definition of hope?*

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Twenty Symbols of Hope, Perseverance and Strength



Vietnamese



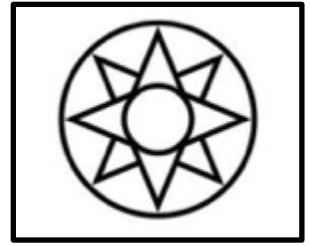
Japanese



Celtic



Welsh



Native American



Christian



Ancient Greek



Christian



Hebrew



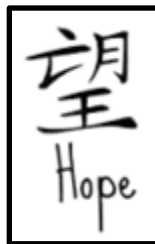
Chai



Norse



Thai



Chinese



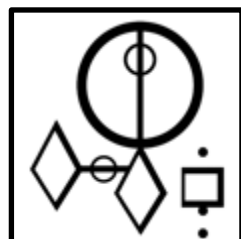
Arabic



Hindi



Russian



Kryptonian



Korean



Punjabi



Greek

Feel free to customize this activity by adding additional symbols and translations of hope, especially those that reflect the cultures of your participants.

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Hopeful Quotations

“Never, ever, ever, ever give up.”

Winston Churchill

The second activity in this paper is a variation of an activity you can find in my book, *Teambuilding with Index Cards* (ISBN 978-1-5249-6498-6). This literary challenge begins with a significant quotation, which you can search for at internet sites like: www.quotationspage.com. I found these two hopeful quotations:



*“If you wish success in life, make perseverance your bosom friend,
experience your wise counselor, caution your elder brother
and hope your guardian genius.”*

Joseph Addison

*“Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up
and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait
and watch and work: You don’t give up.”*

Anne Lamott

After identifying a suitable quotation for your group, dissect this quotation into different pieces, composed of one or two words per piece. In the real world, you can write these words on index cards. In virtual space, you can email, text or otherwise transfer these words to each member of your virtual group.

Next, invite the members of your group to work together and re-assemble the quotation. Then invite them to discuss the content, meaning and inspiration of this quote.



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