



interreligious institute

Video 6

Deepening Interfaith Work Discussion Guide

1. How do you celebrate important family holidays? What are your family traditions?
2. Is someone in your family or close circle of friends of a different faith, religious or non-religious background? How would you describe those relationships in your own experience?
3. What in your values, faith, religious tradition or sacred texts teach you about facing the new or unknown? About disagreement or differences?
4. What are the tools, or practices, you use in interfaith contexts to identify commonalities while also acknowledging and respecting differences?
5. What are some ways you can witness, engage in, or learn from another tradition or religious practice?
6. While recognizing that no one person or even local community can represent an entire religion, what questions do you have about your neighbor's faith or tradition?
7. Have you ever thought, or heard others say, that being involved in interfaith engagement will somehow jeopardize or weaken your own faith? How do you respond to others in your faith communities with this concern? Is there something in this video or in your experience that speaks to that concern?
8. What are some ways that you have seen people do interfaith engagement "better," however you might define that?
9. What does "going beyond interfaith dialogue" mean to you and your community?

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Activity: Take a few minutes to identify some steps, whether small or large, to start or deepen your intentional interfaith engagement.

1. Is there an important holy day or civic celebration coming up where you can build new relationships, learn, or support communities of another faith?
2. Is there an important issue in your city or area that affects many people, an issue where many different religious, faith and non faith groups can work together? For example: poverty, access to health care, the environment, racism, education, bullying. Are there local groups working on these issues?
3. Are there books, movies, articles you can read to deepen your knowledge on your chosen topic?
4. Given your answers to the above questions: What steps can you take to build relationships with people in your city of different faith or religious backgrounds? These can include both personal and communal, but they should be steps with a specific focus and timeline.

Who are the one or two people in your circle of family, friends, or neighbors that you can share this video with and invite into the conversation?