

"How do you practice your faith?"

Questions to Guide Interfaith Dialogue Among Christian, Muslim, & Jewish Teens

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Welcoming/ Providing Hospitality

- What does your faith say about welcoming the stranger and attending to the needs of others?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward the treatment of the hungry, the homeless, the poor, the sick, or the imprisoned?
- How does a teenager of your faith help other people to feel valued, respected, and included – and what boundaries are important and necessary to protect the integrity of a teenager's goodwill gestures?

Eating and Drinking

- How do people of your faith engage in feasting and fasting to celebrate or commemorate special religious events?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward "sharing the table" with all people across the globe?
- In a "fast food world," filled with messages that encourage us to eat or drink too much or too little, how does a teenager of your faith strike a healthy balance with eating and drinking?

Caring for the Body/ Honoring the Body

- How does your faith teach respect for life and respect for the human body?
- In a world of media messages that tell us our bodies aren't "good enough," how has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward your self-image, self-care, and personal adornment?
- How does a teenager of your faith address sexuality?

Discernment/ Discovering Your Work

- How does your faith tradition help you recognize the talents you have been given and the work God calls you to do throughout your various jobs, school involvement, service activity, and club/organization memberships?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward "serving God" in all aspects of your life?
- How does a teenager of your faith learn to discern among the different voices you may hear from within your school, your circle of friends, your workplace, and even from within your own faith tradition?

Managing Stuff / Household Economics

- How does your faith encourage the support of your own faith community, as well as other agencies of service – by sharing your time, your talents, and your treasure (including money)?
- In a world that encourages the consumer mentality of craving and buying more “stuff,” how has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward simpler living?
- How does a teenager of your faith approach the task of reducing the excess and waste of materialism, and increasing the appreciation of “things that matter” in life?

Taking Time/ Keeping the Sabbath

- How do people of your faith tradition gather to worship, and what kinds of special religious things happen on special religious days?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward personal and communal prayer?
- How does a teenager of your faith balance “boring” times with “stressed out” times, so that regular periods of rest and relief can open doors to those special times of rich and insightful sharing with God, with families, with friends, and with your faith communities?

Being Creative and Playful

- What are some examples of creative expression in your faith tradition?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own capacity for paying attention to life as God created it and expressing the world as you experience it?
- In learning to creatively express themselves, how can teenagers balance the wisdom to respect healthy boundaries with the courage to step over unhealthy boundaries?
- How does a teenager of your faith find healthy opportunities for soulful play that frees our inner spirit and keeps us human?

Caring for Creation

- What does your faith say about our responsibility to protect and care for the animals, plants, and natural resources of the Earth?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward God’s creation of this planet, as well as the solar system, and beyond?
- How does a teenager of your faith find ways to influence others to become more aware and concerned about recycling, pollution, global warming, shrinking rain forests, endangered species, and other ecological issues?

Choosing Well/ Saying Yes and No

- When it comes to choosing well, what does your faith say about the role of patience and wisdom in your faith community?
- How does your faith ask you to renounce (say “no” to) some things in order to affirm (say “yes” to) other things? What is renounced? What is affirmed?

- In a world of advertising jingles that emphasize instant gratification, how has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward self-discipline, the keeping of commitments, and being a person of integrity?
- How does a teenager of your faith develop your own conscience, recruit caring companions, and find support for choosing well and deciding wisely?

Living Truthfully/ Testimony

- What does your faith say about honesty in all relationships – and about the pain and damage that dishonesty can bring to any relationship?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward telling the truth, even when cheating or lying might help you “get ahead” in some way?
- How does a teenager of your faith find the courage to respectfully “speak up” about your religious traditions or faith-related topics when the truth is being distorted or misrepresented?

Seeking Justice/ Shaping Communities

- What does your faith tradition say about community service, civic awareness, social concerns, and active involvement in creating change?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward working for economic, ethnic/racial, sexual, and religious justice?
- How does a teenager of your faith take a leadership role in influencing your school, neighborhood, workplace, and faith community?

Being a Good Friend

- What does your faith tradition say about value of deep, committed relationships?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward being a good friend and recognizing which of your friendships are healthy and wholesome?
- How does a teenager of your faith deal with “friends” who are too controlling, who try to influence you in negative ways, who are dishonest, or who consistently hurt you and others?

Forgiving and Healing

- What does your faith tradition say about loving, blessing, or praying for your enemies?
- How do people of your faith find God in the midst of suffering, pain, struggle, and brokenness? Do you have traditions that ritualize healing or forgiveness?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward forgiveness, reconciliation, trust and hope – when you have been wronged or when you are the one who has wronged another person?
- How does a teenager of your faith cope with hurt and anger so that healing and peace can begin?

Facing Grief and Loss/ Dying Well

- How do people of your faith approach the care of the dying and support each other through the grief process?
- How do people of your faith memorialize or honor those who have died?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward death and dying, toward standing with those who suffer, and toward coping with loss?
- How does a teenager of your faith express anger, rage, sadness, despair, and grief to God and to those who are close to you, in both public and private ways?

Making Music/ Singing Our Lives

- What are some ways that people of your faith tradition use music or other rituals to symbolize life events or significant religious events?
- How has being Jewish/Christian/Muslim shaped your own attitude toward the role of chanting, singing, or other forms of music in deepening your faith?
- Is there a particular song or hymn that comes to mind when you think of your faith?
- How does a teenager of your faith use music and singing to express your love, life, faith, and deep feelings?