



#6 Faith

INTERRELIGIOUS COOPERATION

All people in the world believe in something. Some believe in one god, some in several gods, others in no god at all. Some believe in chance or fate.

Sometimes it is difficult to talk about your own beliefs. Faith is a very private topic and very important to many people. At the same time, it can be challenging to tolerate opposing viewpoints from others. Everyone has the right to choose their faith freely. How to deal with these differences?

PROCESS

No.	Content	Time	Material
1	Warm up	15 Minutes	Objects/ pictures/ shapes, pens, paper
2	Definition	5 Minutes	-
3	Statements	20 Minutes	Rope, numbers, possibly printed sentences
4	Images of God	35 Minutes	Picture cards, large posters, eddings, pens, glue stick
5	One world - many religions	15 Minutes	-
6	The golden rules of interreligious coexistence	10 Minutes	

1. WARM UP

Taboo with Religious Terms

Various terms are written on small cards. One person in the group starts. The person explains the term at the top of the card. The terms at the bottom of the card are forbidden.

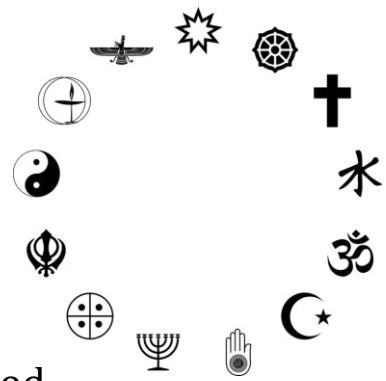
Once a term has been guessed, it's the next person's turn!

2. DEFINITION

Faith is a strong inner conviction. People believe in different things: some believe in God, others in several gods, others in nothing at all.

People who believe in a god are convinced that this god exists. They trust in what they believe. And they trust that they can rely on God.

There are very different religions in the world. There are often similarities, but also many differences.



3. STATEMENTS

A long rope lies across the room. On one side there is the number 1 and on the other the number 10.

In between, the remaining numbers can be distributed in order.

1: I don't agree at all

10: I agree completely.

Various statements are read out to the trainees.

They have to position themselves at one point on the rope.

As soon as everyone has chosen a position, a discussion is held about the statement. The trainees explain their point of view. They can also discuss them with each other.

- * *I would describe myself as religious.*
- * *My faith is important in my everyday life.*
- * *Religion helps me in difficult times.*
- * *Prayer is very important to me.*
- * *I think about the meaning of life.*
- * *For God's love, I must do good deeds.*
- * *Everyone should believe what they want.*
- * *Only those who believe in God go to heaven.*
- * *I have doubted God before.*
- * *All religions ultimately lead to the same goal.*
- * *Jews, Christians, and Muslims believe in the same God.*
- * *Religion helps me in difficult times.*
- * *God loves everyone.*



Source:

<https://pixabay.com/vectors/islam-moslem-pray-prayer-praying-1299211/>

<https://pixabay.com/vectors/prayer-hands-praying-gray-folded-296840/>

4. IMAGES OF GOD – WHAT IS GOD LIKE FOR ME?

Many different picture cards are laid out on a table.

Question for the trainees:

What is God like for you? How do you imagine him?

Each trainee is allowed to choose a picture that fits well with their idea of God.

Firstly, everyone thinks for themselves: What is God like? What characteristics does he have? How would I describe him? (e.g. love/merciful/ I can always come to God/...).

Each trainee is given a large sheet of paper on which the picture card can be glued. The characteristics or descriptions of God are written on the large piece of paper. They can also draw more pictures if they like.

Then the trainees work together in pairs. They describe their picture card to each other and explain why it fits in well with their idea of God. They also talk about the descriptions and characteristics they have found.

Finally, anyone who wants to can hang up their poster. This means that everyone in the group can look at all the pictures.

Talk together about the ideas of God:

- * *Which ones occur particularly often?*
- * *Which characteristics occur rarely?*
- * *Are there images of God that contradict each other?*

5. ONE WORLD - MANY RELIGIONS

There are five world religions. Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. These religions have different beliefs. This means that they are divided into smaller movements with slightly different beliefs. In addition to the world religions, there are many, many other religious communities.

People believe in very different things and there are so many different ideas about God or gods.

All people are convinced: „What I believe is true“. How can we handle this in a good way?

The group is divided into two halves.

Group 1 has the task of collecting "dos" for conversations about questions of faith. The trainees consider: How should one behave? What qualities or rules are important when talking about religion?

Group 2 has the task of collecting "don'ts" for conversations about questions of faith. What must not happen under any circumstances? What is not allowed when talking about religion?

At the end, the groups present their results.

6. THE GOLDEN RULES OF INTERRELIGIOUS CO-OPERATION

Together with the trainees, the three rules are read out one after the other. At the bottom of the page, the trainees have space to add their rules.

Question for the trainees:

What do you think about the rules?

Are there any other golden rules missing?

1. Learning instead of knowing better

We want to learn from our dialogue partner. We want to be open. We don't want to think that we know better than them.

2. Asking instead of judging

Above all, we want to ask questions. We don't want to be guided by prejudices. We want to be open and honest.

3. Testimonial instead of absolute

We want to be respectful and humble about what we believe in. We want to respect the fact that our dialogue partner has a different opinion.

THE ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW

Discussion impulses:

1. Do you have a friend who belongs to a different religion to you? Do you talk about it? What is it like for you?
2. Is there a person who was a role model for you in your faith?
If so, who and why was this person important to you?
3. Have you ever experienced God's actions?
 - If yes: In what situation was that?
 - If no: Where do you think God should intervene in the world?

GOOD QUESTION!

Is it easy for you to talk about people who believe in a different way? What is difficult in a conversation with a person of different faith?

Do you recognize similar values in different religions?

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