

INTERFAITH WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

WHY SHOULD WE DO INTERFAITH WORK?

“We believe that good inter faith relations are a vital part of a harmonious, just and respectful society.”

Faith Community Leaders’ Statement

“We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divide us.”

Jo Cox MP

“This is the way of Christ. He calls us, as his followers, to share his grace and his love with everyone, whatever their background or beliefs.”

Jonathan Edwards, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (2006-2013)



BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

A Samaritan woman went to get some water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink of water.” (His disciples had gone into the city to buy some food.) The Samaritan woman asked him, “How can a Jewish man like you ask a Samaritan woman like me for a drink of water?” (Jews, of course, don’t associate with Samaritans.) Jesus replied to her, “If you only knew what God’s gift is and who is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him for a drink. He would have given you living water.”

– John 4:7-10

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles or Greeks or the church of God. I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved.

– 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

HOW DO WE GO ABOUT IT?

- Not doing it to convert – listen and learn
- We want to create safe space for discussions and relationship building
- Include those of no faith or those questioning their faith
- Ask those involved what they want to get out of it
- Celebrate differences but also find common ground
- Reach out to local interfaith groups for advice and support
- Set guidelines for events to be agreed on by everyone involved

Guidelines for Dialogue

Transforming
interfaith encounters



Exploring Faith | Creating Friendships | Changing Lives

Learning to explore faith in healthy ways is central to The Feast. To help young people do this we ask everyone to commit to these simple guidelines.

- **listen** to what everyone has to say
- **be honest** in what we say
- **speak positively of my own faith**, rather than negatively about other people's
 - **respect other people's views**, even if I disagree
 - **not treat people here as a spokesperson** for their faith
 - **not tell others what they believe**, but will let them tell me
- acknowledge **similarities** and **differences** between our faiths
 - **not judge people here** by what some people of their faith do
 - **not force people** to agree with my views
 - **make every effort to get along with everyone** regardless of their faith, gender, race or age

At any stage we can ask
for a discussion to be stopped
if we feel uncomfortable.



The Feast is a youthwork charity based in Birmingham, UK, specialising in interfaith encounters for 11-18 year olds.

visit: www.thefeast.org.uk

follow us:    [the Feast project](#)

GUIDELINES

The Ten Commandments of Interfaith Dialogue

- 1 Explore – be curious.
- 2 Introduce yourself, smile, say 'hi'. Try to communicate with everybody else.
- 3 Respect other people when they are speaking.
- 4 Respect diversity and difference of opinion.
- 5 Think globally, but act locally.
- 6 Remember: All we need is love! Everybody wants to be accepted and respected. It makes everybody feel happier and more relaxed.
- 7 Be brave enough to try and make a difference.
- 8 Be on time!
- 9 Be a shepherd, not a sheep.
- 10 Listen.

[Taken from SALTO-Youth/Youth in Action's
"The Sky is the Limit" Interfaith Dialogue Guide]

IDEAS FOR YOUTH GROUPS

- Hold an event bringing young people of different backgrounds together to discuss a particular theme e.g. the environment
- Create a social media campaign to highlight the importance of interfaith understanding and friendship
- Create a multi-faith volunteering opportunity – perhaps working with the local interfaith group, or two or three faith groups in your area



IDEAS FOR YOUTH GROUPS

- Arrange a visit to a faith-based organisation, such as a care home run by a particular faith community, and talk to people about their faith
- Hold an interfaith 'bake off', baking breads from different cultures
- Get different faith groups to host "Come Dine With Me" style meals celebrating different cultures and cuisines (making sure they are Halal/Kosher/etc)
- Hold a film and discussion night for young people of different faiths to compare how different topics are interpreted by different groups of people





IDEAS FOR FILM NIGHTS

- U
 - Inside Out*
 - Finding Dory
 - Wall-E
 - Home
- PG
 - Moana
 - Big Hero 6
- 12
 - An Inspector Calls
 - The Avengers
 - Star Wars: The Force Awakens
 - Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
- 15
 - Easy A

THEMES

Identity, depression/sadness
 Family, community
 Environment
 Friendship, people who are different

Life after death, destiny, calling
 Sacrifice, friendship

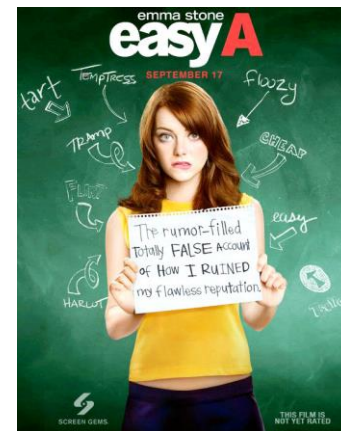
How we treat others
 Teamwork, good vs evil
 Good vs evil

Friendship, war

Gossip, portrayal of religion







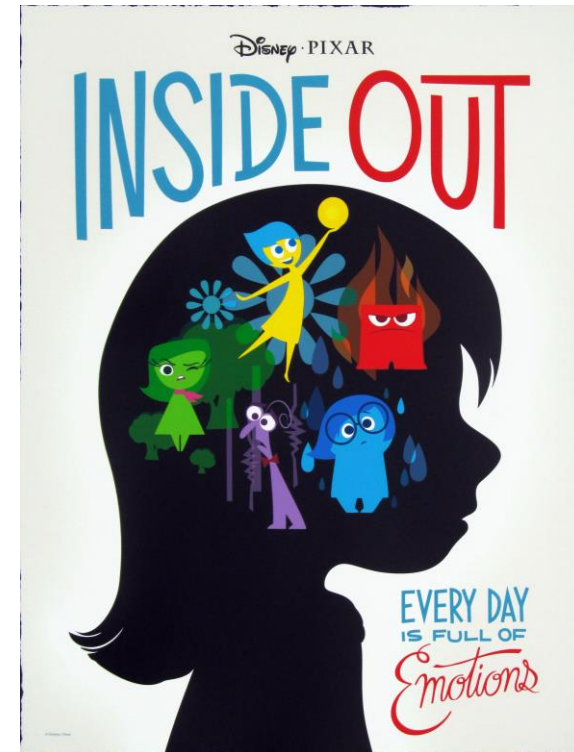
EXAMPLE FILM NIGHT: INSIDE OUT

Games

- Disgust or Bust – Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans blind taste test (they are Vegetarian, Kosher and gluten free, and can be bought online)
- Find Your Joy – taking it in turns, everyone tries to laugh without smiling (spoiler: everyone ends up laughing more!!)
- No Fear – matching phobias to fears

Discussion questions (remind everyone that there are no wrong answers!!)

- In Riley's parents' brains, Joy isn't the dominant emotion. Which of the five (or perhaps another) do you think would be your dominant emotion and why?
- Are some emotions bad? Why/why not?



EXAMPLE FILM NIGHT: INSIDE OUT

Activities

- Write or draw what you think your islands of personality would be (i.e. Riley's were Family, Honesty, Hockey, Friendship and Goofball Islands), then see if you can find someone with one of the same islands as you.
- Write or draw a time when you've felt each of the five emotions from the film – joy, sadness, fear, anger, disgust.

Food Ideas (check that everything is Vegetarian/Halal and Kosher)

- Joy – cake, chocolate, sweets
- Fear – soft cheese, raisins, avocado (soft foods you don't need to be afraid of!)
- Sadness – drinks (like Sadness' tears!)
- Anger – spicy food e.g. crisps
- Disgust – vegetables, salad



THE GOLDEN RULE

Most major world religions have a version of the Golden Rule – treat others how you would want to be treated. The Peace Mala bracelet encompasses this -

www.peacemala.org.uk



THE GOLDEN RULE

BABA'I FAITH
Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself
Baha'u'llah, Gleanings

HINDUISM
This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you
Mahabharata 5:1517

BUDDHISM
Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful
Udana-Varga 5:18

CONFUCIANISM
One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct... loving kindness. Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself
Confucius, Analects 15:23

ISLAM
Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself
The Prophet Muhammad, Hadith

TAOISM
Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain, and your neighbour's loss as your own loss
T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien, 213-218

JUDAISM
What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary
Hillel, Talmud, Shabbat 31a

SIKHISM
I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all
Guru Granth Sahib, pg. 1299

JAINISM
One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated
Mahavira, Sutrakriyanga

CHRISTIANITY
In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets
Jesus, Matthew 7:12

ZOROASTRIANISM
Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself
Shayast-na-Shayast 13.29

UNITARIANISM
We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
Unitarian principle

NATIVE SPIRITUALITY
We are as much alive as we keep the earth alive
Chief Dan George

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SOME KEY FESTIVALS

- Christianity: Lent, Easter, Christmas
- Islam: Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha
- Judaism: Pesach (Passover), Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
- Sikhism: Vaisakhi (Creation of the Khalsa), Birth of Guru Nanak
- Buddhism: Wesak/Sakya Dawa (Celebration of Buddha's Enlightenment, Birth and Death), Buddha/Bodhi Day
- Hinduism: Raksha Bandan, Diwali
- Bahai'ism: Festival of Ridvan, Birth of the Bab and the Birth of the Baha'u'llah
- Paganism/Druidism: Spring Equinox, Summer Solstice, Autumn Equinox, Winter Solstice



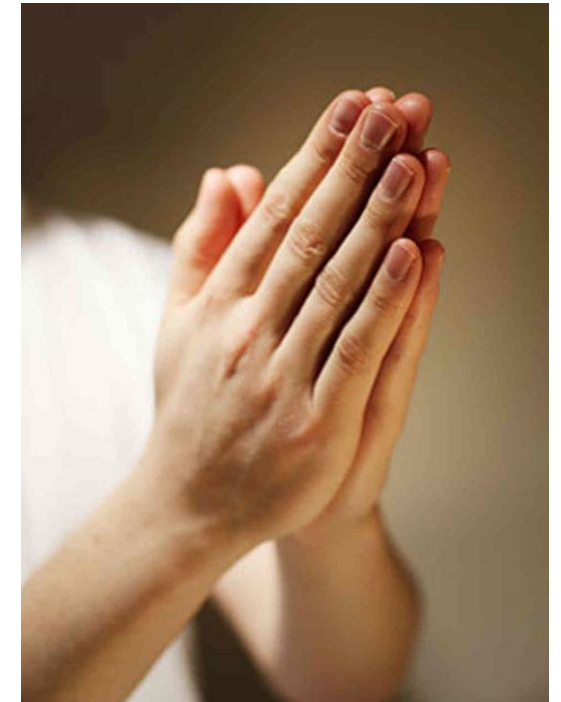
INTERFAITH PRAYERS

A Prayer for Connectedness

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin colour.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness.
So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbours.
And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbours.
Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven.

Amen.

Rabbi Harold Kushner



INTERFAITH PRAYERS

A Prayer for Perseverance

Now I say to you in conclusion, life is hard, at times as hard as crucible steel.

It has its bleak and difficult moments.

Like the ever-flowing waters of the river, life has its moments of drought and its moments of flood.

Like the ever-changing cycle of the seasons, life has the soothing warmth of its summers and the piercing chill of its winters.

But if one will hold on, he will discover that God walks with him, and that God is able to lift you from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope and transform dark and desolate valleys into sunlit paths of inner peace.

Amen

Dr Martin Luther King Jr

