



Deepening Interfaith Work *Video Discussion Guide*

**RAMADAN
ROAD
TRIP**

Interfaith engagement is not a new phenomenon, and neither is our ability to deepen meaningful dialogue, relationships, and collaboration. If we practice listening, learning how to agree and disagree, and learning how to engage new individuals or communities, we will build empathy for each other. If that empathy, deeper knowledge, compassion, and courage are there, we can strengthen the foundations of trust as we support each other in times of crisis and in times of joy. These are the ingredients for deeper interfaith engagement.

This guide is meant to connect the Ramadan Road Trip video series with faith communities and people of goodwill who are interested in building communities across difference and diversity.

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. What background work or reading would you need to do in order to approach a conversation with mutuality, rather than asking someone to teach you everything about a religion or faith community?
8. How might you ask questions about your neighbor's faith or tradition with humility, curiosity and openness, without asking someone to speak for an entire community or tradition?



Deepening Interfaith Work Video Discussion Guide

RAMADAN
ROAD
TRIP

9. How might you ask questions about your neighbor's faith or tradition with humility, curiosity and openness, without asking someone to speak for an entire community or tradition?
10. What challenges do you experience in your own community or experience when it comes to interfaith engagement?
11. 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?
12. What are some ways that you have seen people do interfaith engagement "better," however you might define that?
13. What does "going beyond interfaith dialogue" mean to you and your community?

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, etc.. 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?

To watch the full series and access additional discussion guides visit:

ShouldertoShouldercampaign.org/RamadanResources