Tips for Multi-faith Engagement

Religion. It’s ok to ask! But...

- Be respectful. Avoid making someone have to be a teacher for their own entire tradition or culture.
- Ask people about their personal practices rather than their personal beliefs. Not all people within a religious or spiritual community practice in the same way.
- Use “I” statements. Start by talking about yourself/your own tradition.

Approach every conversation with a lens of curiosity: genuine respectful curiosity will be acceptable to many, while demanding people defend their faith will be offensive to most.

It’s ok to make mistakes. Let others know that they can tell you if something you say might be incorrect or offensive.

Use inclusive language for those who do not identify with a particular faith tradition or identify as atheist or agnostic.

Whenever possible, make events accessible and inclusive for all potential participants. Some things to consider:

- Religious Holidays (interfaith-calendar.org)
- Prayer times (e.g. Friday prayers for Muslims, Friday Sabbath/sundown for Jews)
- Physical contact between genders
- Dietary needs such as Kosher, Halal, vegetarian, vegan etc.

What will you do this week to further your knowledge? Take the time to learn something about a tradition different from your own.

You don’t need to be an expert- ask an expert! Seek help or advice from the staff or multi-faith network at MFSC mfsc@concordia.ca