

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