

*****This program was used in the Spring of 2009 as part of a panel discussion including a Rabbi, a Priest and a parent who was part of an interfaith marriage. We also had a group of Christian youth visiting the event who participated in this with us.***

A Dialogue of Understanding

Joe Winner, BeTTY/NFTY-CAR Songleader
Max Looper, NFTY-CAR PVP

Touchstone Text:

“The LORD is our G-d, the LORD is One”
-Deuteronomy 6:4

Goals:

- To gain an understanding of the religious beliefs of Reform Jewish and Christian Teenagers in the Chicagoland Area
- To gain an understanding of what it is like to be a Jew/Christian in the Chicagoland Area
- To encourage discussions related to faith with members of religions other than your own

Objectives:

- To interact with members of another religion in a discussion about religion and culture
- To learn basic facts about Judaism/Christianity

Materials:

3 Chairs (For Panel)

People:

All Kolbo PPs and Members of Christian Youth Group
Panel (Rabbi, Pastor, Parent)
1 Floater/Time Keeper (Joe - Program Leader)

Space Needed:

The social hall at Beth Tikvah

Timetable:

00:00-00:03 Intro
00:03-00:18 Speakers
00:18-00:38 Q&A
00:38-01:05 Interfaith Dialogue (Discussion)
01:05-01:15 Conclusion

Detailed Procedure:

00:00-00:03 Intro

PPs will all enter room, and sit down facing front of room- PL Reads
“Welcome to the interfaith dialogue. Over the next 40 minutes, you will be having a discussion and asking questions about faith, religious practices, G-D, life as a Jew/Christian in this area and more with [name three panelists] and will then be splitting off into groups to have your own discussions. We hope that this provides all of you with a chance to better understand the beliefs and lives of people of a different Monotheistic faith. On many questions in the groups that you will be in, you and other members of your group will have different opinions. We ask that you respect and consider the opinions and beliefs of others, whether or not you agree with them so that this can be both a positive social and learning experience. Please welcome (First Speaker)

00:03-00:18 Speakers:

First speaker in panel will talk for five minutes answering the following questions, and this will be repeated by all three speakers:

1. What do you think is the most important teaching in your religion and why?
2. Why is interfaith dialogue important and why is it difficult to have?

00:18-00:38 Q&A

“We would now like to open the floor to questions for all three members of our panel” (people ask questions)

00:38-01:05 Interfaith Dialogue/Discussion

PL(Joe) reads: First of all, I would like to thank our panel and lets give them a round of applause. Now, we will be having our own dialogue and will be breaking into groups to do so. The questions that we have written are on three sheets of paper (Appendices B, C, D), with each paper representing a different category. Feel free to go in any order that you choose, and ask your own questions if that is where the discussion goes. If you have (sticker) on your nametag, please go (place in room).

01:05-01:15 Conclusion

All the groups come back together and sits down and PL says, “Now that you have all had your conversations, does anyone want to volunteer to share something special or interesting they learned?” PL calls on people to share. They do this for 5-7 minutes.

Then PL says: “I’m sure you all had some great conversations, and we urge you guys to take what we learned out into the world. Take this better understanding and realize that we can come together and make a difference in the world despite all of our differences.

Your Own Personal Theology

Can all people go to heaven? *Why?*

Does heaven exist?

Do we have free will? To what degree?

DOES GOD INTERVENE IN OUR DAILY LIVES? IF SO, IN WHAT WAY?

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Do you think it is possible to believe in/follow your religion and not believe in God?

Your own Personal Experience

Have you ever been discriminated against for your religious views?

What is your favorite holiday or observance? Why?

Does any part of your religion make you uncomfortable?

WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN YOUR YOUTH GROUP?

Your Personal Observance

What are the dietary restrictions in your religion? Do you follow them?

How does your religion affect your attitude toward sex and sexuality?

Would you date someone of a different faith? Would you be willing to marry someone of a different faith? If so, would you convert? How would you raise your children?

WHEN DO YOU PRAY TO GOD? DO YOU PRAY TO JESUS?