

UNDERSTANDING INTERFAITH

1. INTRODUCTION (20 mins) 930-950am

- **Introductions**–with neighbour, say name, where from, what hope to gain from today with neighbour and other replies “I see you,” and other replies “And **I see you.**” meaning of the exercise ~ Nameste=I see the Divine in you (trad. Indian greeting)
- **My background**
- **Slide: Aims and outline** of the day, include **video snippets** at different points, **Ground rules** - suggest confidentiality, respect for different views, being on time, keeping phones quiet. IDEALLY SCRIBE
- **Video** - Buddhism. **Q:** How compare with your faith/worldview? What reactions do you have listening to this? Has it helped inform/change your view about Buddhism in any way. CLASS

2. WHAT IS INTERFAITH? (30 mins) 950-1020am

- **E: What does interfaith mean to you?** What is it not? Pair (2 mins) and share in class
- **Slide: Different meanings:** dialogue, recognising common ground, or more active– e.g. In how it informs traditions, may include those exploring spirituality but not tied to a tradition
- **E: Challenges and advantages –personal and collective H/O** - list & say how respond to these; being mindful of own zealousness and checking, knowing own faith stands strong, evangelising often means building relationship first
- Why might be important to encourage into faith dialogue? What if we don't try to?
CLASS: What may be the **advantages** of interfaith cooperation? **Beauty and benefits** of variety and difference? The **challenges** of working cross faith
- **Video:** Faith leaders in dialogue-**Dalai Lama & Archbishop Tutu**
- My journey–how I came to interfaith ministry

3a. FINDING COMMON GROUND Part 1 (25 mins) 1020-1045am

- **E: Tree drawing–1. Christian denominations (5 mins), 2. other traditions (5 mins)** know about, which strong in Rwanda (**Slide of UK, India, Can**)? NEED PENS & SEVERAL A1 SHEETS
After Refer to SLIDES
- **Video** - Sikhism. **Q:** How compare with your faith/worldview? What reactions do you have listening to this? Has it helped inform/change your view about Sikhism in any way. CLASS

BREAK (15 mins) 1045-11am

3b. FINDING COMMON GROUND Part 2 (45 mins) 11am-1215pm

- **SLIDE:** Intro idea of a **lift speech**
- **E: How would you describe your own faith in a “lift pitch”** with a stranger? **Role play** with neighbour
- **Video** - Christianity. **Q:** How compare with your faith/worldview? What reactions do you have listening to this? Has it helped inform/change your view about your beliefs in any way. CLASS
- Is there/Where is the common ground between faiths?
Getting to the **essentials of faith teachings**
Touchstones– Reflecting on home perspectives regarding such things as love, soul, etc
Golden Rule/Silver Rule
E: What does it mean to be hospitable, friendliness, kindness, compassion... ways of expressing?
Cross-culture examples of same teachings/stories, different guises **SLIDE: One River**

LUNCH (1 hour) 1215-1315pm

4. INTERFAITH CO-OPERATION (50 mins) 115-235pm

- **Video** - Islam. **Q:** How compare with your faith/worldview? What reactions do you have listening to this? Has it helped inform/change your view about your beliefs in any way. CLASS
- **CLASS Q:** What form might interfaith dialogue and cooperation take?
- Examples of how interfaith engagement is being expressed by others
- **T: Guided metta meditation** (as an example of interfaith activity) H/O
- **CLASS Q: What do we understand by worship, prayer, teaching, ministry/helping others in the community**, debate, co-created ceremony? Which do you feel okay about or not?
Practices, prayer—meaning, approaches (e.g. intercession)
- **Video** - Hinduism. **Q:** How compare with your faith/worldview? What reactions do you have listening to this? Has it helped inform/change your view about your beliefs in any way. CLASS

BREAK (10 mins) 235-245pm

5. PLANNING AN INTERFAITH EVENT (60 mins) 245-345pm

- **Possible activities**—Umuganda related comfortable/universal cross-faith offerings/spaces, helping in the community
- **E: Plan an interfaith event**— What might you do? Who to invite? Considerations? How to approach others with invitations/possible responses? Small group & share **Then SLIDE**
- **Video** - Daoism. **Q:** How compare with your faith/worldview? What reactions do you have listening to this? Has it helped inform/change your view about your beliefs in any way. CLASS
- **SLIDE: Facilitating** – planning, considerations, Role and approach of the facilitator **SLIDE: Holding space**
- **Video** - Judaism. **Q:** How compare with your faith/worldview? What reactions do you have listening to this? Has it helped inform/change your view about your beliefs in any way. CLASS

6. TAKEAWAYS (10 mins) 345-355pm

- **Personal time: consider options for inviting others** from different traditions to a service and vice versa? And consider...
- **Personal resolutions**, e.g. mindful treatment of others, readiness to explore without fear of dilating own faith, etc ALLOW SPACE TO RECORD ON CHALLENGES/ADVTGS WORKSHEET

7. CLOSING (5 mins) 355-4pm

- Mention labyrinth event if this has been scheduled
- **Evaluation forms H/O**
- Final thoughts—invite open circle CLASS Discussion

Video intros durations:

Buddhism 3:13 Christianity 5:44 DalaLama & ArchbishopTutu 3:21
Daoism 2:23 Hinduism 4:00 Islam 5:41 Judaism 9:41 Sikhism 4:22

Allow 5 minutes for each to discuss how feel after listening. How different / alike own faith or worldview? = addition 40 minutes. Total 1 hour 20 mins.