

Interfaith Youth Core

Facilitator's Guidelines – Dialogue on the Shared Values of Service

Goals of the dialogue

- To help participants discover the shared value of service across different religious traditions through scripture, story-telling and action.
- To encourage participants to grow in their own faith identities, learning how to talk about what they believe, even as they learning to listen to others.
- To build a sense of cooperation and collaboration amongst religiously diverse young people on campus and in the community.

Setting a safe space for dialogue (see attached guidelines) – 10 minutes

Scriptures on the shared value of service - 15 minutes

- Ask your group to go around the circle and read the scriptures on service aloud. Make it clear that no one has to read if they feel uncomfortable doing so.
- Ask the group to reflect on what they've read: "Did any of these – either from your own faith tradition or not – particularly resonate with you?" "Did you hear anything that you found challenging or helped you to think about service in a new way?"
- Explain that these scriptures offer us a chance to think about how we interact with people who are different from us in light of our shared values, and that this will be the framing for the discussion.

Story-telling as a means of dialogue - 20 minutes

- Ask the group to tell a story about a meaningful service experience. Emphasize that this need not be a religious story. If they get stuck, model the story that you worked on earlier.
- Now push the story further by asking participants to reflect on what inspired them to do this work, "What inspired you to do that act of service? Was it something from your faith tradition or moral perspective?"

Returning to the scriptures - 15 minutes

- Ask the group to read the scriptures aloud again. Encourage participants to see if they think about things differently after they've listened to stories about inspiration from different traditions.
- Ask, "Is there anything new that sticks out to you as you read through these scriptures a second time?" "How did you see the themes of these texts playing out in the stories we just told?"