



BUILD RELIGIOUS LITERACY

a window into your neighbor's faith



Leadership
Institute

Interfaith Philadelphia®

Dare to understand.®

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Religious Literacy

What to Expect

Overview

In this six-session, interactive community experience, participants will learn more deeply about the lived experience of different faith traditions. Each week will feature independent study, learning from people who practice that faith in a living library, and time for discussion and integration.

Developing a rich understanding of the diverse ways people identify around religion helps us become more effective leaders, facilitators, and participants in all walks of life. The specific faith groups we will focus on in this offering include Islam, the Baha'i faith, Judaism, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Week One: Introduction

Week Two: Islam

Week Three: Baha'i faith

Week Four: Judaism

Week Five: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Week Six: Wrap Up

Goals

- Gain a better understanding of the expansiveness and variety of religions.
- Develop curiosity and engage thoughtfully with people of different ways of living/believing.
- Explore core stories and key practices of different religions.
- Experience positive connections with people of different faiths.
- Deepen understanding of your own faith identity and experience.

Expect to go deep. This program utilizes a transformational education approach where participants are encouraged to engage in deep reflection, introspection and to cultivate deeper engagement with others.

Shared Commitments

- Be open to learn and grow (growth mindset).
- Share the airtime--be mindful of how much you speak.
- Be present (not multi-tasking).
- Challenge yourself to participate fully.
- Use "I" Statements (share your truth).
- Listen to understand not to respond.
- Expect non-resolution
- Lean into discomfort and reflect upon self discovery.
- Confidentiality: Lessons leave, stories stay.
- No proselytizing

Prepare:
Grab a notebook or journal and writing utensil for reflections.

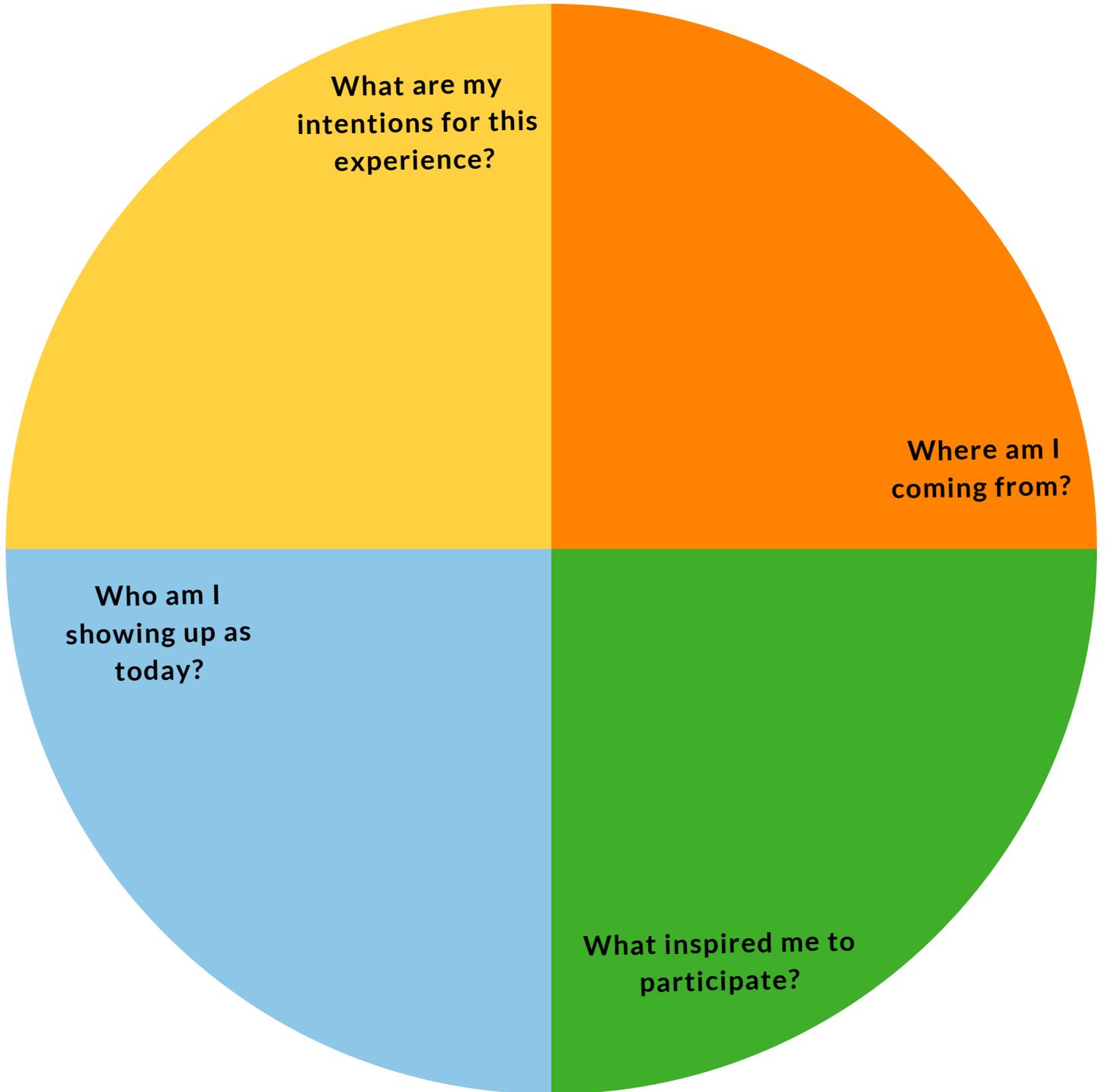
Week One

Why Build Religious Literacy?



Week One

Reflection



Week One

Beginning

“Rather than try to understand other traditions through our pre-existing categories, we might acquire new categories for understanding. Not only might we find surprising, thought provoking answers to the questions we bring to religious study, but we might find that even our questions themselves need to be re-examined.”

Dr. Mark Berkson (The Great Courses)

About Language

Abrahamic

Dharmic Traditions

Evangelize & Proselytize

Judeo-Christian, Interfaith & Ecumenical

Monotheistic

Observant & Secular

SBNR (Spiritual but not religious) & NONES

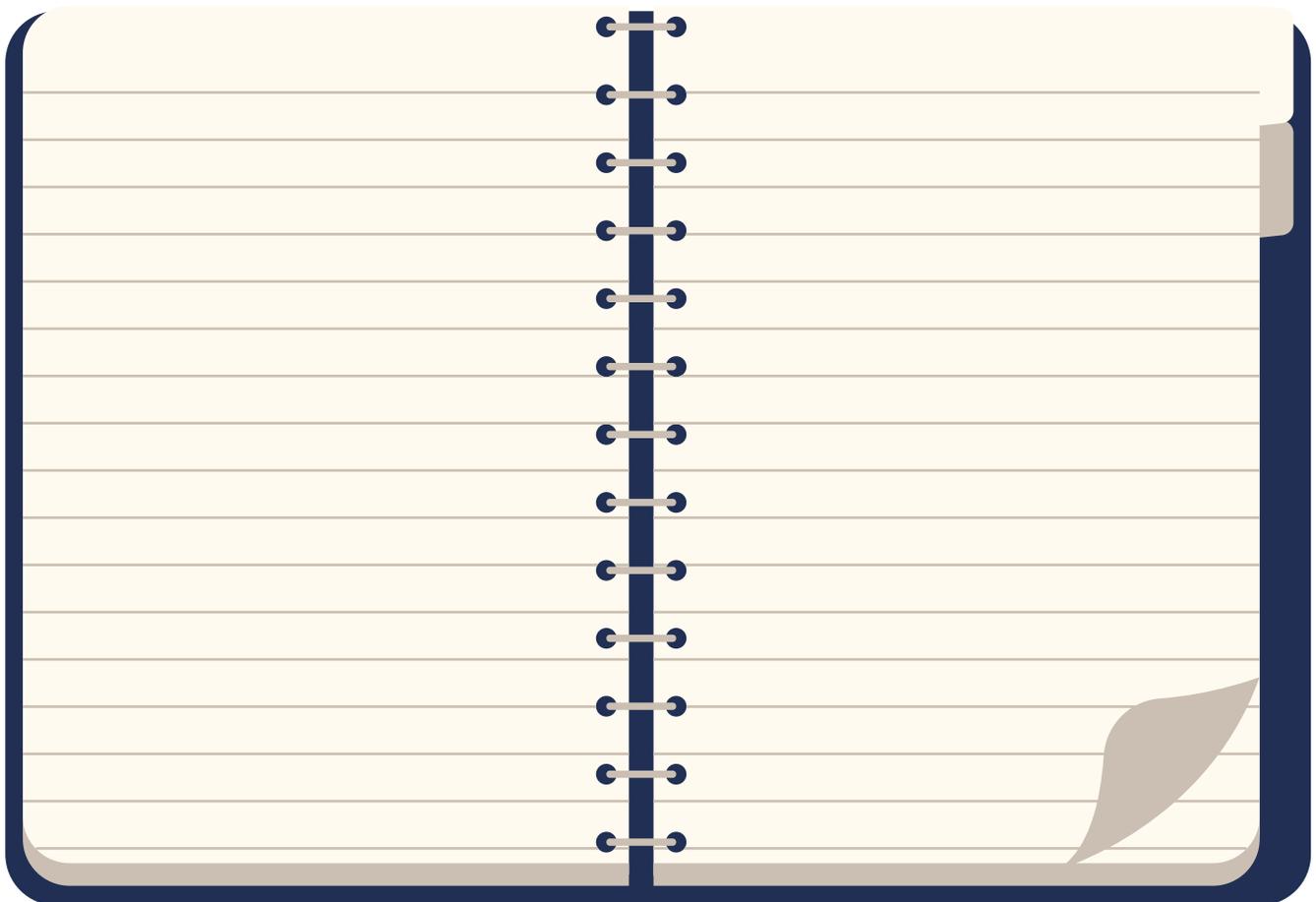
We do not have centralized affirmed language, different traditions use these words differently.

Week One

How We Engage

"Practice the art of staying in the room with each other: in listening, in understanding, in going deeper. The process of a group engaging in deep conversation is one that requires courageous hospitality: hospitality to the hope that can support insight, change, moral reckoning, as well as hospitality to the demanding ways of conversations which invite learning." Padraig O'Tuama

Brainstorm Curious Questions



Week One

Self Awareness

"If you don't understand yourself, you don't know anybody else." Nikki Giovanni

"We can only be as connected to other people as we are to ourselves." Brené Brown

How would I describe my own spiritual or religious identity:

What core practices nourish me?

What challenges me about my spiritual or religious tradition?

How might the way I orient around faith impact the way I learn from others and their faith?

Week One

Prepare for Next Week



We will be exploring *Islam*

What do I know?

What would I like to know?

Read/Review: *How to Be a Perfect Stranger*, Islam

Watch: A Day in the Life of an Imam (8 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHZGmydCLbU>

Challenge: Take this quiz on Ramadan

<https://www.interfaithamerica.org/ramadan-quiz-how-much-do-you-really-know/>