

Listening Guide

I. The Melting Pot

[1] What is your response to the growing influence of various religions in your community?

[2] Should Christians view people with other religious beliefs any differently than non-Christians do? Why or Why not?

II. Six Principles of Relationship

[3] What are two or three ways you could show genuineness to others?

[4] ... How do you feel about having a serious talk about religious beliefs with someone who practices another religion? Afraid? Not Interested? Willing? Excited? Other?

[5] If you had a conversation with a person who has a different religious belief what would your intention be? To Learn? To Refute? To Convert the person to your belief? Other?

[6] How important do you believe it is to convince someone to accept your religious beliefs? Why?

[7] How would someone who believes others should accept their religious beliefs do so without violating the principle of being respectful?

[8] How does showing respect for someone else teach us humility?

[9] Why is it so necessary to humbly listen and learn from people who have religious beliefs that are different from ours?

[10] Why is it a good idea to avoid ridiculing or scolding people of other religions because of the intolerance in their religion's history?

[11] How could you tactfully respond to someone who made an insulting remark about your religion's history?

[12] How does this paragraph provide a balance that helps us avoid being "fair to a fault"?

[13] Do you believe about your religion what the Dalai Lama believes about Buddhism?

[14] How do you think we can be honest and disagree with someone and do so with humility, courtesy and discretion? What statements or words or phrases would you use to complete the statement, "We obviously don't agree here, but... What?"

[15] When we surface genuine disagreements between religious teachings in conversation with others is it okay to acknowledge disagreement?

[16] List a few guiding principles that this section on “Be Discreet” teaches us.

[17] If you agree with Daniel Clendenin, what does it mean, in your opinion, that God will treat every person with perfect love and justice?

[18] Do you believe it is always possible to live peacefully with neighbors of differing religious (or political) differences?

[19] How can we increase the possibility that we can live peacefully with those who disagree with us?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

Review the section of this lesson entitled “Be Discreet” and ask a few people who know you well if they see you as one who speaks the truth in love. Ask them if they find you approachable and safe to be honest with.