

## 20 Questions for Confirmation

**Q.10: How important is it to talk about my faith with friends? What if my friends are from a different faith tradition? How can there be so many different religions when there is only one God?**

**By Pastor Carrie Stiles**

**INTRODUCE THE QUESTION:** Have you talked about your faith with your friends? With other groups you spend time with? With your family?

- What are some similarities that you notice with friends? What are some differences?
- Do you talk about what you believe? Or is it hard or uncomfortable?
- What about your family? Does everyone agree on faith? Are there places for faith conversation or do you feel like this is a hard topic?

**VIDEOS:** There are three different video options. The first video is a little deeper and might better suit an older group than the second video. Feel free to use either or both as fits your group.

1. Can all religions be right? (3:09)

<https://www.patheos.com/editorial/videos/faith-leaders/01/faith-leaders-part-1>

2. Kids describe “God” (4:29):

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

## VIDEO RESPONSE:

### Video One

- What do you think of the statement, “Everything that is good is of God”? • What do you think when he says that “There is beauty and truth in other religions, but ultimately they are not going to lead you to the whole truth”? Do you think we can ever completely understand God? How do we live with the mystery of God?
- How would you describe your faith if you were talking to a friend? Would you use different words if your friend is not Christian or doesn’t practice a religion? • Many times religion focuses on what you have to do to get into heaven. What do you think of this? What else could be important parts of a faith and being part of a faith community?

### Video Two

- Which of the kids in the video do you resonate with? Which one were you surprised at? • Can all these different images the children have of God be right or wrong? Can you have a conversation with your friends about different beliefs? Give a chance to give examples of things you have talked about with friends.
- How do you describe God? Is it okay to describe God in different ways? • Toby, the Jewish boy, says “The world goes around because all these different people have different beliefs in God.” Do you think this is true or do you disagree? What would you say to Toby if you were talking to him about God?

## SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-6, John 14:8-14, 1 John 4:7-12

Take time to read the scriptures. You could do this together or you can divide the scriptures up and have small groups read them and give an explanation about what they tell us about God.

**Exodus 20:1-6** *This scripture takes place when the Israelites were in the wilderness and God called Moses to the top of Mount Sinai to give him the Ten Commandments to bring back to God’s people. This is the first of the commandments.*

**John 14:8-14** *This is a section of the Gospel of John where Jesus is telling his disciples how by*

*believing in him is also believing in God (the Father). An important part of this section is that believing in Jesus means doing the work of God, even greater work than Jesus was doing. The group can talk about if they think all faiths are doing God's work in the world. 1 John 4:7-12 In this section the emphasis is on love, God's love for Jesus, Jesus' love for us, and our love for each other. Discuss how we live out that love and if love for those of other faith is what Jesus calls us to do.*

**PRAYER:** The following are some examples of prayers from other faiths that you might use.

***Jewish Prayer for Peace***

*Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High. And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares, and our spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation- neither shall they learn war any more. And none shall be afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.*

***Muslim Prayer for Peace***

*In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful. Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations, that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other.*

*If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God, for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things.*

*And the servants of God, Most Gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say "PEACE."*

***Native American Prayer for Peace***

O Great Spirit of our Ancestors, I raise my pipe to you.

To your messengers the four winds, and to Mother Earth who provides for your children. Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect, and to be kind to each other so that they may grow with peace in mind.

Let us learn to share all the good things you provide for us on this Earth.

***Ba'hai Prayer for Peace (Buddist)***

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.

Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech.

Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home to the stranger.

Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring.

Be a breath of life to the body of humankind, a dew to the soil of the human heart, and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

*Prayers taken from the website [jesuitresource.org](https://www.jesuitresource.org)*

*<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/prayers-for-peace#:~:text=Back%20to%20Top-,Buddhist%20Prayer%20for%20Peace,think%20of%20befriending%20one%20another>*