



Acting on Faith Discussion Guide

Do you want to help people build relationships while reflecting on their own faith, after they have read the book? Use this model!

BEFORE YOUR GATHERING

- First, determine who will be invited. Will this be a gathering of people who share the same religion or an interfaith group?
- Work out the logistics:
 - When and where will the group meet? Is the space accessible?
 - Will there be food & drinks served (ensure it meets the dietary restrictions of all religions involved),
 - How long will each session last?
 - If this is an interfaith gathering, will you open or close with a prayer? If so, will the prayer be broad enough to encompass all beliefs gathered, or will you invite someone from a different religion to pray each time in their tradition's language and style?
- Be sure those who want to attend know how to purchase a copy of the book beforehand. It can be ordered online at <https://chalicepress.com/products/acting-on-faith>. You can also ask your local bookstore to carry it.
- Decide how many times the group will meet, and let participants know which chapter(s) to read before each session. Here are a few suggestions:
 - If you will meet once, participants should read the whole book beforehand. When you gather, you could either choose 1-2 reflection questions from each chapter to discuss, or see if the group wants to choose one chapter to focus on.
 - You could meet 4 times, and each time discuss two parts of the book: Session 1 – Introduction & Chapter 1; Session 2 – Chapters 2 & 3; Session 3 -Chapters 4 & 5; Session 4 – Chapter 6 & Resources for Engagement. In the 4th Session, you could conclude by talking about next steps the group would like to take.
 - You could meet 6 times, and each time discuss one chapter of the book. You might briefly touch on the Introduction in the first session (along with Chapter 1), and in the last session finish by talking about the Resources for Engagement and next steps people would like to take.

DURING YOUR GATHERING

- Create a welcoming environment. Be sure someone is designated to get there early, arrange the space to facilitate discussion, and greet people as they arrive. You may want to provide name tags if participants don't already know each other.
- Ensure the group is a good size which allows for discussion. If there are more than 12-15 people, you may want to break up into several smaller discussion groups.

- Invite people to introduce themselves and share why they chose to attend.
- We recommend that at the beginning of your first gathering, the group sets some guidelines for your time together. It is most helpful when the group decides together on these guidelines, but here are a few suggestions:
 - Remember that each person speaks out of their own, individual experience. No one person's experience or opinions represents everyone who shares their religious tradition.
 - The goal of our discussions is understanding, not agreement. We do not need to convince anyone else we are right, or change anyone else's mind. We are here to learn about each other and understand our differences and similarities, not to become more like one another.
 - In a group, it is natural for some people to be quicker to speak than others. Let us work together to make space for everyone to share when they are ready, and to ensure that a few people do not do all the talking.
- Reflection Questions are provided at the end of each chapter, but also leave room for participants to raise their own questions and reactions to the stories, and for them to share their own personal stories.

483 East Lockwood Avenue, Suite 100, St. Louis, MO 63119

Phone 314-252-3212 • E-mail marketing@chalicepress.com • www.ChalicePress.com

AN IMPRINT OF CHRISTIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION