



Principles of Dialogue

1. Help to create a space of equality in which all participants and their traditions are respected.
2. Help create a space which encourages all voices and their traditions to share and participate, while simultaneously respecting an individual's choice not to speak.
3. Pledge to preserve the dialogue as a space in which no participant exercises the intent to convert others to his or her own faith or point of view.
4. Agree, for the purposes of the dialogue, that no one individual or tradition possesses a monopoly on truth.
5. Avoid generalizations, strive not to substitute simplistic labels for complex realities.
6. Acknowledge and respect differences within all traditions, especially within one's own.
7. Trust your personal experiences but speak only for yourself and not for others in your tradition or the tradition of others.
8. Restrain the impulse to resolve problems that do not lend themselves to easy solutions. Ask yourself what you *wonder* rather than what you *conclude*.
9. Let yourself be vulnerable.
10. Listen, listen, and when there's nothing left to do, listen.



Source Exploration: The Process

- Greet* Take a moment briefly to introduce yourself. Be sure to note your name, your tradition, and what community/organization you represent.
- Study* Ask for a volunteer to read the supplied text aloud.
- Focus* Keep the translated scriptural text at the center of the conversation. Knowledge of original source languages and established interpretative traditions may be important and relevant, but such knowledge should **not** replace the translated text as the focus of the exploration.
- Mutuality* Employ the methodology of mutual invitation (explained by your small group facilitator).