

Collaborating to Resolve Religious Issues

OBJECTIVE

Examine one religion from an issue-centered perspective.

1. In a small group, select a contemporary issue and study how interpretation has changed (or not changed) over time within the faith you chose to analyze. Here are a few suggestions to help get you thinking: the role of women; marriage equality; respecting diversity of religions and beliefs; and martyrdom.
2. Use this chart to help you understand the issue and to contemplate approaches to understanding the issue better or creating solutions.

Religion					
Issue	Q	Q	Q	Other Interesting Facts/Details	New Questions
What do I already know?					
Source					
Source					
Source					
Summary					

Proposed Resolution/Solutions

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3. Review a variety of sources, both primary and secondary. In addition to printed resources, you may want to watch a film related to your issue. For example, if your issue is related to LGBT people and Christianity, then you may want to look at “For the Bible Tells Me So” (visit www.forthetellmeso.org).

4. Article 18 from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, Dec. 10, 1948) states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.” Design a constructive policy grounded in Article 18 from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, respecting diversity of religions. Shape your arguments according to the political reality of today and what you learned from your own explorations.