

# “WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE” VIDEO SERIES

## COMMON ELEMENTS OF HOUSES OF WORSHIP : A DISCUSSION GUIDE

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The Interfaith Relations and Community Partnerships Department of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston is pleased to present our Welcome to Our House video series showcasing the common elements of houses of worship in our community. The first four videos focus on the common elements of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish houses of worship. Additional videos on Greater Houston’s diverse faith communities will be added to this Welcome to Our House series through June 2024. Each video is approximately 15 minutes and includes insights into what people see when they step into these beautiful, sacred spaces in our community.

Enjoy these videos on your own or with your family. Host a classroom discussion. Share during a corporate lunch and learn. Discuss with adult education classes in a house of worship. Unite youth in dialogue. These are meant for audiences of all ages in various settings. The discussion questions will help you use these videos as learning tools to foster understanding and dialogue.

### Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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Debbie and Floyd Kearns



### Discussion Questions:

1. After viewing these videos, discuss similarities and differences across religious traditions. What thoughts do you have about these similarities and differences?
2. How do the worship spaces, religious artifacts, or interviews with the faith leaders express these similarities and differences?
3. What do the worship spaces and/or religious artifacts teach you about what spiritual practices are most important for each faith tradition?
4. What do the buildings and their contents teach you about the importance of prayer, music, scripture, and community?
5. Religious communities often understand their house of worship as a space that holds the presence of God. What elements of the videos helped you see how God’s presence is expressed in the architecture, artifacts, and worship of each house of worship?
6. Have you ever visited a religious service or festival different than your own? What was that experience like for you?
7. How is experiencing the religious traditions of others beneficial to your own faith journey?
8. Would you feel comfortable visiting a worship service different than your own? Why or why not? How has this video series helped you feel more confident about visiting a different house of worship?
9. Think about your school, community group, workplace, and discuss why it is important to learn about different faith traditions.
10. Add your own questions!

**Tell us how you used these videos and how your discussions went. Email Kim Mabry at [kmabry@imgh.org](mailto:kmabry@imgh.org).**

**In-person group tours also available. Email Jenny Abbott at [jabbott@imgh.org](mailto:jabbott@imgh.org).**