



***Allah Made Me Funny The Movie:* Post Screening Dialogue Guide**

Now that you just got done watching the new comedy film, *Allah Made Me Funny*, bring together a diverse group to host a dialogue! This guide is a manual for discussion leaders to guide their group in a process of discovery, reflection and dialogue designed to lead to group cohesion and action.

20,000 Dialogues

The *20,000 Dialogues* process gets people talking about some of the major issues of our time: the perceived clash between Islam and the West, and coexistence between Muslims and people of different faiths. Confronting stereotypes that abound in popular culture about faith, violence and extremism, 20K brings everyday people to the same table in candid dialogue to promote greater understanding: Learn more at www.20000Dialogues.org

To Dialogue

Dialogue is a new approach to an age-old challenge. It is the meeting of minds and hearts in candid discussion. Its goal is as simple as it is challenging: to enable participants to see the "other" in a new way and to learn and grow from the experience. Dialogue is inherently risky, because it opens us up to the possibility of change and transformation.

Then Take Action

The "*20,000 Package*" of watching the film and engaging in small-grassroots generated discussions enables participants to create an ongoing forum for taking action together. The dialogue process is designed to promote sustained interaction between the participants.



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Discussion Guide:

INTRODUCTIONS AND ICEBREAKER

Logistics:

- Have the dialogue participant's break into groups of five, or if you have a group of 7 or 8, stay in one large group – ask participants to join up with a group they didn't come with – and have each person introduce themselves.

Icebreaker and Ground Rules:

- Start with a question: Did anything surprise you about the film? What was your favorite joke?
- Optional: start out with an *icebreaker exercise* to get your group in sync with one another:
 - **The V.I.P.:** ask each person going around clockwise to tell the group in one sentence why they are a Very Important Person.
 - **Set Ground Rules:** ask the group: What do you need from yourself and others in order to feel safe having this conversation?
 - Examples of possible guidelines are: everyone has the right to pass; everything that is said is confidential; seek clarification if you don't understand something that is said; suspend your judgment; use 'I' statements; etc.
 - **Assign a Note-Taker:** someone should take notes on the group's comments, especially as you approach the reflection/action section.

DISCUSSION

- Do you ever share stories from your faith or culture that make you laugh? Share a story from your faith or culture that makes you laugh or that you have used to lessen tension or explain yourself to others?
- Religion doesn't always help with making people laugh. Why do you think religious issues are always the most serious?
- Do you think it makes a difference that the comedians are from South Asia, the Middle East and America? Does this kind of ethnic and racial diversity matter to what they are trying to do? Why?



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- Were you at all surprised that the comedians were able to be self critical of their own community?
- In what ways are members of your community self critical? Can you share an example of how humor is used in your community?
- How does your community use laughter? Can you share an example of how humor is used in your community?
- Can humor and laughter help us build understanding across religious and cultural difference? Why?
- Have you or someone you know ever had an experience with being racially profiled? How did you respond to it?

REFLECTION AND ACTION

- To increase understanding between Muslims and people of other faiths, what are the most effective things you can do?
 - Give examples: You can continue dialogue, work on community service projects with a Muslim congregation, think or look at the news about Muslims differently, etc.
- What are some projects that you could think of where humor could play a role? How can you include comedy into different events and dialogues?
- In one week from now, what will you remember about this film?



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