

The Rabbi, the Minister, and the Priest: A Workshop for Middle School Students and Their Families

by Pat Lukens

edited by Nina Gelman-Gans

This program provides an exciting and interesting view of the religions around us. Participants prepare interview questions and then dialogue with area clergy in a lively round robin setting. Participants are sure to leave talking and thinking about new ideas.

Here's what some participants have said in the past:

"I was so surprised at the liberal views of the priest. My view of Catholicism is changed."

"I was surprised at how many similarities exist between Christianity and Judaism. It makes the history of anti-Semitism surprising."

"I learned why Christians can't participate in a Torah service."



Give your students a
Jewishly safe
environment to
explore the religions
that surround us.

Inside this copy-pack:

Pre-Program Preparation	2
Program Lesson Plan	3-4
Sample Interview Questions	5
Interview Questions Template	6
Sample Clergy Letter	7
Editor's Picks— Interfaith Resources	7
Program Flyer	8
Reminder Postcards	9
Evaluation	10

Topic: comparative religions

Target Audience: middle school students and their parents

Time Frame: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Staff: rabbi, minister, priest, family educator and 3 teachers

Overview: participants prepare interview questions and then dialogue with local clergy

Goals: To help middle school students and their families explore how they fit into the world around them, and to develop an understanding and appreciation of other religions.

Room Set-up: auditorium-style for full group, three classrooms for interviews, each with enough chairs for one-third of the participants.

Handouts: The only handout for this program is the interview sheet. A sample is enclosed. For a really successful program, each site should create its own interview.

Highlights:

- Parent focus group
- Four Corners "Values" Icebreaker
- Clergy round-table—
Everything you always
wanted to know about
other religions, but
were afraid to ask...
- Clergy focus—What
does it take to be a
good Catholic,
Protestant, or Jew?

Made especially for Congregation Chai of New City
Provided by the Angel Family Fund