



Guidelines for Common Tables

1. You have stereotypes. Even if you think you are the most open minded human on the planet, chances are you have some negative opinions related to religion. Whether its doubters or believers, evangelicals or Episcopalians, Muslims, Jews or Sikhs, you have to overcome - you need to overcome how you feel or think in order to understand all others.
2. You can be a peacemaker. If heated words are flying, try to maintain a cool head and help each person see the other's point of view.
3. There isn't always a right answer. We all wish there was and some people may feel that they have it.
4. Your first reaction is your worst reaction. If you feel threatened by something someone says your first impulse will not be a thoughtful one. Before you shut down or cut the person off, reevaluate the comment and your response.
5. Secrets corrupt. If you have a complaint, share it with your whole group. You have to be one for all and all for one.
6. Every opinion must be respected. It doesn't mean you shouldn't politely should not try to change the opinion of you disagree with it.
7. Do your homework. If a member is unable to answer your questions about a religious issue, do your own research and share what you find with the others.
8. And talk about stereotypes - where did they come from? How did they get started? with your parents? teachers? movies? reading material? Do you still feel that way? If not - what changed you?
9. AND HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!