...el arte de la convivencia...

Reading and Scriptural Reasoning

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

1. Stick to the texts

Scriptural Reasoning is much more fruitful if the discussion remains focused on the texts in front of you – rather than becoming a general discussion on religion.

2. If it's possible use the original languages (if all the participants speak the same language use this one rather than English)

No English translation is perfect and most people in the group will not be familiar with all the original languages.

3. Feel invited to explore others' texts

And also invite others to explore your texts. This can be challenging at first but Scriptural Reasoning is all about hospitality – inviting others to cross boundaries and get to know you and your scriptures better. It is about open discussion rather than trying to reach an authoritative interpretation of the scripture.

4. Listen carefully and charitably to others' comments and give space to them

In Scriptural Reasoning, you should allow for others' readings to be expressed and explored even if you have very clear ideas about how a particular text should be understood.

5. Be honest

You are not expected to be an 'expert' on your own scripture and faith tradition, so be honest about the things you don't know or understand.

6. Avoid generalisations

Nobody represents their faith tradition so avoid making statements such as "Christians/Muslims/Jews believe…". It would be better to say (for example), "as a Christian/Muslim/Jew, I think this text means…"

7. Be present

Your full participation is crucial to Scriptural Reasoning. This means having a mindful presence- reading, reflecting, listening and discussing.

8. Be respectful when handling the texts

Remember that the different traditions have different views on how the scriptures should be treated and some faiths consider their scriptures to be sacred.