

Children at the Well

Guidelines for Choosing Stories to Share with People of Other Faiths

Compiled by teachers and coaches involved in Children at the Well

Choose a story that you love one that moves you and that you believe will affect others. Serious or funny, choose it because it speaks to you.

Choose a story that “says” something special about your religion that you would like others to know.

Share your faith tradition through your tale, but remember storytelling isn’t about converting others to your beliefs.

Be aware that if your story includes religious terms, references to holidays, historical events, or practices, your listeners may need a brief explanation either at the beginning or when you use the term.

A story that imparts a truth or piece of wisdom (sometimes called a “Wisdom Tale”) can be a good choice.

Acknowledge that stories from many traditions may illustrate the same truth, or impart the same wisdom.

Always be open to the fact that others' beliefs / practices may be very different from yours and that great richness and insights often come because of the diversity.

Be aware that the story you choose for an interfaith audience may be different than one you'd tell to listeners from your own religion.

Consider whether there is anything about the story you are choosing that might offend people of different traditions. Tell your story to rehearsal partners and/or your group's leader with this in mind. If this seems to be a possibility, sometimes your best choice is to look for a different story to share.