

# LET'S TALK ABOUT TALKING

## A SACReD Curriculum Preview



SACReD  
Spiritual Alliance of Communities  
for Reproductive Dignity

Over the next several months we'll be sharing short snippets inspired by the SACReD curriculum revision that our team is working on this fall. Consider these a teaser, a taste-test for the updated curriculum that we will release in early 2025. These would be great for a book club, Sunday school lesson, scripture study, lunch and learn, or any other group who might want to delve more deeply into Faith and Reproductive Freedom.

### Let's Talk About Talking September 2024

We know that the whole notion of sitting down with fellow congregants and religious leaders in a faith setting to discuss matters of sexuality, reproduction, and justice may be uncomfortable for some. In addition, the topics of patriarchy, racism, gender, abortion, and economic injustice - not to mention religion itself - are heavy, complex, and often anxiety-provoking because people are worried they'll say the "wrong" thing. None of us wants to look ignorant, no one wants to hurt anyone, and no one wants to get "canceled." Conversely, some believe that "calling out" every minor mis-step will help everyone learn, but often this practice just pushes people away.

We really need to have these conversations, which require some **courage** and a lot of "**good faith**," meaning an open mind and heart, and the willingness to do your best, while assuming others are doing the same. A great way to start is for leaders to gather small groups and simply discuss how folks would like to approach these issues together.

You might begin with this wise counsel from one of the RJ movement mothers, Professor Loretta Ross: "[Calling in the Reproductive Justice Movement](#)." She reminds us that what really matters is our genuine participation in this cause we all

care about, not whether or not you are up on the latest activist lingo, still attached to your old hymns and prayerbook, or purified of every iota of racism, sexism, etc.

After the video, ask participants what struck them about the lecture and whether Ross's guidance put them more at ease. Do a little practice too. If people are still hesitant, spend additional time with Ross's ideas. If people are ready to go, move on to break the ice!

Participants may want to journal about these questions first, and, after reflection, facilitators should both make space for everyone to share and respect that some are not ready to do so.

- Why are you interested in reproductive issues?
- Is this an open topic of discussion in your faith tradition or has it been taboo?
- Why is it important to engage the issue from a faith-based perspective?
- How comfortable, or not, are you discussing these issues in a faith-based setting?
- In what ways do you understand reproductive, racial, and economic justice to be interrelated, or not?
- What does your faith tell you about justice and activism in general? Do those easily translate to support for reproductive issues, or do you find it more difficult to make that connection?