

There were a lot of interesting topics that I could have covered, but there was one subject that stood out to me the most: faith. For this project, I'd like to do research on faith with a minor concentration in religion. I grew up in a Catholic household and attended Catholic school from preschool up until eighth grade. I attended Covenant preschool and then Saint Isaac Jogues from kindergarten to eighth grade. My mother wanted me to attend a private Catholic school because she wanted good morals, judgment, and faith to be instilled in me. I remember my early days of believing and not questioning - I just accepted what I was taught. I lost my faith around fifth grade, but to be honest, there was doubt in the back of my mind since second grade. I've endured some hardships throughout my life and wondered if my lack of faith in something was a possible thing holding me back. I want to start a spiritual journey, and I'd like to use this project to document that.

There are three people that come to mind when it comes to who I would want to interview. My mom, my friend Sofiya, and my friend Meredith are all individuals who follow different religions and hold different beliefs and values. Each of these people would be able to provide a unique perspective on what having a set of beliefs mean to them, how they practice their faith/religion, what it means for them, and how it helps them in their daily lives. Their kinship is something I value greatly, and learning about another aspect of their lives would bring me closer to them as well as gain understanding of their perspectives of the world.

My mom is a Christian who doesn't hold all of the same values as the Catholic Church, which was what I was raised into. She attends a non-denominational church that focuses on scripture from the Bible, does Bible study, and practices her faith on a daily basis by putting her belief in God. She has changed significantly (and for the better) as a person over the years once she found her faith. She has tried again and again to guide me back towards the path of God, but I have been hesitant and resistant. Opening this conversation with her will allow me to reflect on how her faith is involved in her relationship with me - a question I have yet to ask her.

Sofiya is a childhood friend who is Muslim. Muslims are people who identify with and practice Islam. She believes in the Quran and the messages it sends to its readers. She, too, practices her religion and participates in holy holidays, merging custom, religion, and culture into one homogenous mix of faith. I don't know much about Islam and I'd like to learn more about it as Christianity and Islam are both Abrahamic religions. Seeing this facet of God would be an inclusive and exploratory experience, and would add distinction to my final project website.

The third person I'd like to interview for this project would be another good friend of mine, Meredith. We met in high school and are still friends almost six years later. She does not practice any religion, but instead has a belief system and faith that is based on spirituality. I'm not quite sure what faith she is specifically, which is one reason why I want to interview her. She practices tarot card readings, has a collection of rocks that hold different spiritual properties, and practices certain rituals. Her faith may not be part of a distinct religion, but the idea of holding certain values and morals due to her beliefs is a part of faith that I want to delve into.

What I'm hoping to learn as I complete this project and conduct these interviews is what the core basis of faith is, and how it gives one hope, purpose, and direction. These are some values that I am lacking in my life, and I am hoping that by learning about faith, I can draw some inspiration or find a belief system that works for me and distill these values into my daily life and character. In addition to finding faith, I'd love to learn about other religions and belief systems, as I have viewed religion from the perspective of Catholicism almost my whole life. I also believe this project would give others a new frame of reference, an interesting look into religion from different lenses, and provide an educational experience on a topic that not everyone is intimate with.