

# Lesson 2: Covering your bases with quotations

*JEA One Story Fall 2020*

## OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

When covering controversial or complex topics, students need quotations from a variety of sources but they also need a variety of quotations. The Courageous Conversations Compass provides a framework for students to understand the types of questions they may need to ask and the types of responses they are looking for.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Students will read and analyze the article from NYT At Home, “Find Faith Outside a House of Worship” looking for a variety of responses from sources
2. Students will be able to understand and apply the four directions of the Courageous Conversations Compass to their own lives
3. Students will conduct mock interviews asking sources questions to elicit these four levels of response: intellectual, social, emotional, and moral

## MATERIALS NEEDED

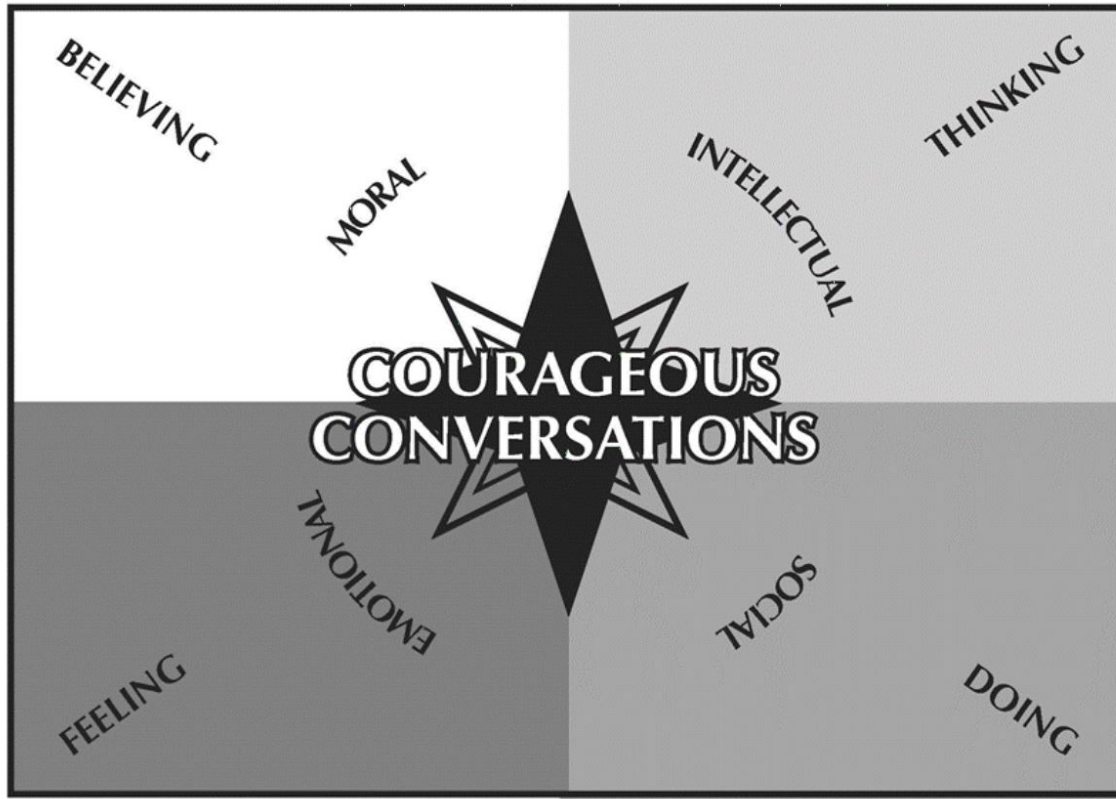
1. At Home article “Find Faith Outside a House of Worship”
2. Courageous Conversations Compass image/categories
3. Paper and pen or computer/phone for notes

## ACTIVITY

Whether students read the article first or talk about the compass first is up to teacher discretion.

## Courageous Conversation Compass

from *Courageous Conversations about Race* by Glenn E Singleton and Curtis Linton, Corwin Press, 2006



1. Show the class this image and explain that it covers the range of responses people experience in almost any situation when they must form an opinion or figure out how to engage with an experience or solve a problem.
2. Define the four terms: Emotional, Social, Moral, Intellectual
3. Give students the hypothetical situation of receiving a phone call to find out a relative is in the hospital. Ask them to give examples of each type of response.

Ex. Intellectual = ask questions about diagnosis, look up map to hospital, ask about arrangements for care of relative's house

Emotional = cry, feel distressed or hopeful, be angry, punch a wall

Social = call a friend, tell other family, post on social media, seek a hug

Moral = pray, provide food for family, evaluate whether life choices of relative led to hospital stay, donate to a research organization, be more conscious of own health

If you think students understand, move on to the article. If not, consider reviewing more hypothetical situations. Remind students that moral isn't about universal rights or wrongs but

more about what individuals have been taught through family or community values

4. Have students read article and look for the varying levels of response.
5. Discuss with students the kind of questions reporters must ask to elicit the varying levels of response.
6. Set students up in groups of two, three, or four or have pairs come to the front of the class for interviews. The goal is to have students asking both surface and deep questions to get a range of responses/analysis from their sources.



HANNAH YOON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

# Find Faith Outside A House of Worship

Some families miss the religious communities that were a big part of their lives. Now, parents are getting creative.

BY CHRISTINA CARON

IN THE JACOBS HOME, Shabbat has become synonymous with two things: Facebook Live and Shira Averbuch, the ukulele-playing, golden-voiced singer who serves as the artist-in-residence at B'nai Jeshurun, a nearly 200-year-old synagogue on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Avery Jacobs, 3, often sings along to the “Bim Bam” song in her family’s Manhattan apartment or in the patio of her grandparents’ home on Long Island. When Averbuch tells the kids that she’s feeling “that Shabbat feeling” in her heart, their parents respond in the comments: They feel it in their head. Their hair. “Avery feels it in her feet!” writes Lindsay Jacobs, 33, Avery’s mother.

Shabbat, the seventh day of rest in the Jewish tradition, is a time of joy, relaxation and worship. Likewise, Eid al-Adha, the Muslim feast of the sacrifice held at the end of July, is a celebration. And on Sundays, Christians gather to pray, sing and receive sacraments. But none of those rituals have played out as they usually do.

One of the cruelties of the coronavirus is that it has led places of worship to not only strip away in-person religious traditions, but also modify or eliminate community gatherings all at a time when the faithful — still reeling from the effects of an unrelenting pandemic — need them most.

For families with young children, this presents an especially big challenge: Without in-person religious education or volunteer activities, how do parents keep kids engaged in their religion? How can a family “love thy neighbor as thyself” in a world where close social interaction is discouraged?

Carrie Willard, 42, an administrator at Rice University, said that for her two boys, 12 and 9, the “big-C challenge” was the ability to see God in other people rather than casting judgment because they aren’t making the same choices. But what she and many other families continue to grieve is the loss of their in-person community, especially during the holidays.

“Easter was this weird but not terrible thing,” Willard said. Their church was closed, so her family lit a fire pit in their yard and her husband, who is the rector at

Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston, read a sermon. “It was really lovely,” she said. “And I think that’s what we’ll remember, I hope.”

Willard’s family and others are finding new ways to express their faith and imbue their children with notions of grace and giving, even if the circumstances aren’t ideal.

“Nothing can fully take the place of the communal face-to-face gatherings of religious communities,” said Tyler J. VanderWeele, Ph.D., an epidemiologist and co-director of the Initiative on Health, Religion and Spirituality at Harvard University. Dr. VanderWeele and his colleagues have examined how religious upbringing and religious service attendance can shape the lives of adolescents. Their 2018 study found that, among the adolescents studied,

**How can people ‘love thy neighbor as thyself’ in a world where close social interaction is discouraged?**

attending religious services at least once a week was associated with greater life satisfaction, lower probabilities of marijuana use, greater frequency of volunteering and fewer lifetime sexual partners.

In-person services are also meaningful for parents. A 2017 Pew Research Center survey found that of those U.S. adults surveyed who attended church at least once a month, two-thirds said they did so to give their children a moral foundation, to become better people and for comfort in times of trouble or sorrow.

Asma Uddin, 40, an author and religious liberty lawyer, said having community events, like celebrating Eid together or attending Muslim summer camp, “gives you a sense that there are people like us.” Uddin, who lives in Rockville, Md., described how slowing down during Ramadan this spring was “spiritually uplifting,” but if there continue to be fewer traditional in-person gatherings, she is concerned that her children might not learn how essential religious community is to their Muslim identity.

Victor Rodriguez, 55, and his wife, Juana Rodriguez, 46, members of the Church of the Ascension, a Roman Catholic Church in Manhattan, have similar worries.

He and his family of six attended church in person every Sunday, but now only he and his wife watch mass on YouTube at 9 a.m. on Sundays. Their four children, ages 14, 13, 8, and 5, used to volunteer at the church’s food pantry, which was mainly staffed by kids. But when the pandemic hit, it was no longer considered safe for them to participate and the adults took over.

“It’s real difficult,” said Victor Rodriguez, an unemployed carpenter. Even so, he added, “we have to learn to live with this right now. We have to take precautions for us and others.”

The pandemic has led some church leaders to worry about whether families will return to church when in-person services resume. Church membership has already fallen sharply over the past two decades, and an increasing number of Americans say they have no religious preference. But an April survey from Gallup, conducted during the early days of the pandemic in the United States, found that of those who were members of a church, synagogue or mosque, about half had worshiped virtually within the past seven days, and another 6 percent had worshiped in person.

About a month ago, Catholic churches were permitted to reopen in New York City, and churches have fought to reopen in other parts of the country, too. Some families did not hesitate to return.

“I am kind of honestly tired of doing all this online stuff,” said Robert Farina-Mosca, 54, who is now attending in-person services at Holy Trinity, a Roman Catholic church in Manhattan, with his 11-year-old son. In the absence of any formal religious education, his son has been making cards that are delivered along with food donations. On one of the cards he drew a platter with two chicken legs and wrote “Enjoy your meal.” Then, on the inside: “Even though I don’t know you, I still care about you.”

Experts say small, simple gestures like those can help guide children in the tenets of their faith.

Corrie Berg, the director of

Holley and Eric Barreto of Princeton, N.J., at left, and their children, Elena and Nico.

educational ministries at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, N.J., is empathetic to the many responsibilities parents are shouldering right now. “I just don’t think our parents particularly have the bandwidth to be creating — or even just following — at-home Bible studies or devotions or simple readings,” Berg said. “All of that requires uploads, downloads, links, clicks, print outs — and as a parent, especially with littler ones, you’re just like: ‘I can’t even. There’s no way.’” Her philosophy is to “do less, better.”

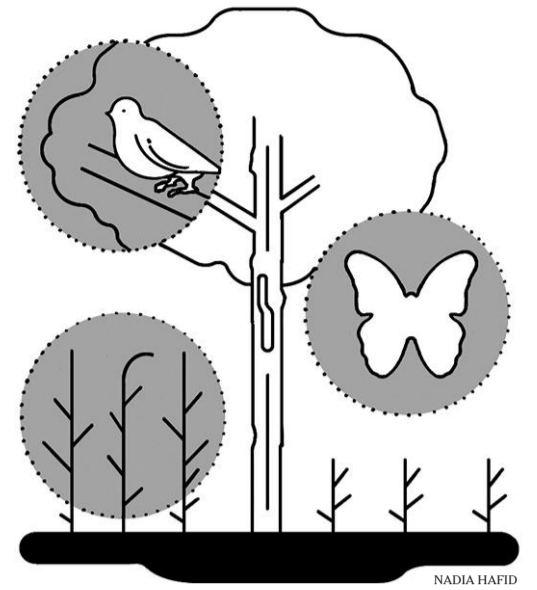
David Zahl, a young adult minister at Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville, Va., agrees. Zahl, the author of “Seculosity,” a book about how parenting, career and other worldly things have become like a religion, said parents often told him how they felt guilty for missing religious services online. “It’s a mix of anxiety and deep fatigue,” he said.

Zoom church for young kids, with a few exceptions, is pretty much a nonstarter, he acknowledged. “The first thing I want to say to them is, ‘It’s OK. Cross that off your list. God is not mad at you,’” Zahl said.

David Carey, 48, a hospice chaplain, said that before the pandemic he regularly attended services at The Refuge Church where he lives in Windham, Maine, and his twin boys, who are 5, went to Sunday school. But now everything is online and they’re “Zoom-ed out,” he said. So he started playing Christian children’s songs at home and singing them when he and his family spend time outside.

“I remember thinking, and even praying, ‘Lord, how will they ever get to know any of this stuff?’ And then all of a sudden they start singing this on their own,” he said. “I’ve learned music is a way to transcend a lot of things.”

In some respects, Zahl said, the pandemic could be considered an opportunity to help children better understand their religion. “For parents who see things like prayer, spiritual conversation, asking for forgiveness and overall modeling of grace in practice as the heart of their faith, well, the pandemic has been something of a gold mine,” he said.



## Explore The Outdoors With an App

These six tools can help you learn all about mother nature.

BY STEPHANIE ROSENBLUM

SOME OF THE MOST engaging and meaningful vacations have long been entwined with learning, be it visiting museums or touring historic properties. Nowadays, though, many vacations take place outdoors. Yet that doesn’t mean learning is strictly about survival skills. Rather, an outdoor vacation is an opportunity to explore the wonders of geology, botany, ornithology and zoology — particularly with the help of some portable tools. By teaching you how to identify what you see and hear, these nature apps help all ages roam.

### BIRDS

**Audubon Bird Guide** A striking field guide to more than 800 species of colorful North American birds, this app from the National Audubon Society uses the month, location and details you provide — like tail shape, voice and size — to help you identify the winged beauties that catch your eye. Based on your details, you’ll be shown possible matches of the bird you’ve glimpsed. Choose one and you’ll see photos and information about habitat, range and migration, diet and feeding behavior, eggs and nesting, and conservation status, as well as audio clips and whimsical descriptions of songs and calls. (The scarlet tanager’s call? An “emphatic, nasal chip-bang.”) And because the best birding doesn’t necessarily occur where there’s Wi-Fi, you can download field-guide data and use it offline. *Cost: free.*

### INSECTS AND OTHER ANIMALS

**Picture Insect: Bug Identifier** Like bird identification apps, this one analyzes your photo to determine the insect you’ve spotted. When the app suggests an answer, you can check out additional photos, learn about the bug’s size and habitat, and read answers to frequently asked questions like “What does Carolina leaf-roller eat?” (Spoiler: plants and other insects.) *Cost: free; \$19.99 a year (after a seven-day free trial) for the premium version with features like unlimited insect identifications.*

**National Wildlife Federation Nature Guides** One of the nation’s largest wildlife conservation education organizations, the Federation has a variety of field guide apps to teach you more about the living things you may encounter on your outdoor adventures: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and more. Available for iOS only. *Cost: From \$9.99 for one app to \$49.99 for the six-app Ultimate Wildlife Bundle: North America.*

### TREES, PLANTS AND FLOWERS

**PictureThis** This app is terrific at quickly identifying the plants, flowers and trees you photograph. Recently, shots of a day lily, cup-plant, white wood aster, sweet gum, even trichaptum fungus on a log, were identified in less time than it took to say “I know what this is!” The app also provides additional photos, descriptions, facts, the story behind the name and the symbolism of the things you photograph, adding a touch of romanticism. *Cost: free; \$29.99 a year for a premium version, which includes features such as unlimited plant identifications.*

### OCEAN LIFE

**Picture Fish — Fish Identifier** The hook is simple: Take a photograph of a fish (if you’re fast enough) and this app will try to identify it. *Cost: free; \$19.99 a year (after a seven-day free trial) for the ad-free premium version with features that include unlimited fish identifications and a fish encyclopedia.*

### GEOLOGY

**Peak Finder** Not sure which mountains you’re looking at in the distance? Finding out can be as easy as holding up your phone. This app has a camera mode that uses augmented reality to show you — by combining the image seen through your lens with a panoramic drawing — the names of the mountains you’re viewing, as well as their elevation. And you need not worry about connectivity in the mountains; the app works offline. *Cost: \$4.99.*