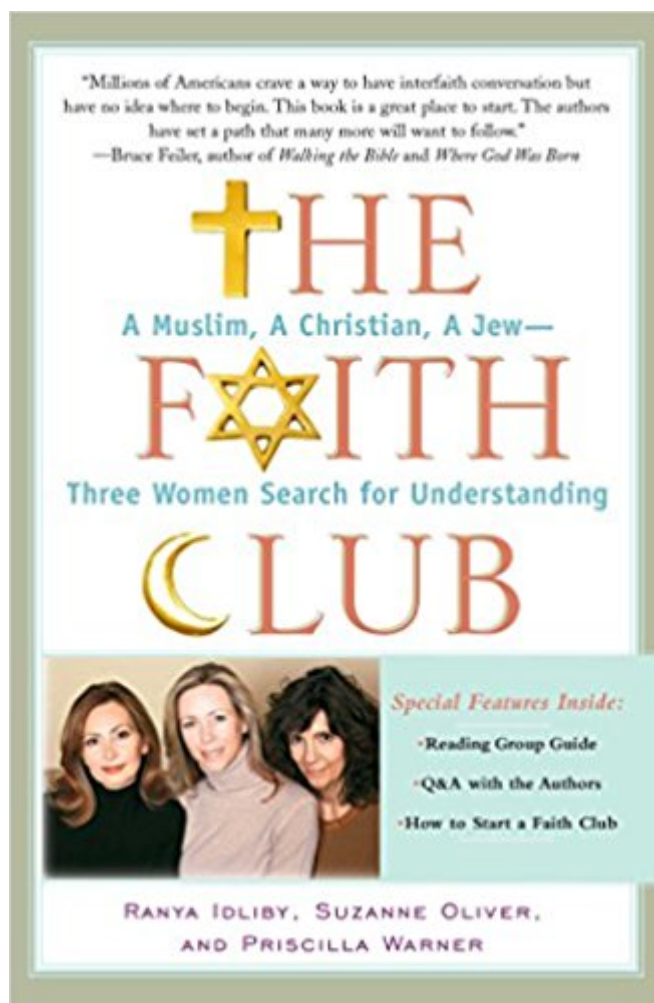


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# The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew-- Three Women Search For Understanding



## Synopsis

A groundbreaking book about Americans searching for faith and mutual respect, *The Faith Club* weaves the story of three women, their three religions, and their urgent quest to understand one another. When an American Muslim woman befriends two other mothers, one Jewish and one Christian, they decide to educate their children about their respective religions. None of them guessed their regular meetings would provide life-changing answers and form bonds that would forever alter their struggles with prejudice, fear, and anger. Personal, powerful, and compelling, *The Faith Club* forces readers to face the tough questions about their own religions. Pioneering, timely, deeply thoughtful, and full of hope, *The Faith Club*'s caring message will resonate with people of all faiths.

## Book Information

Paperback: 396 pages

Publisher: Atria Books; Reprint edition (June 5, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743290488

ISBN-13: 978-0743290487

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 310 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #37,017 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Sociology](#) #58 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Faith](#) #60 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Faith](#)

## Customer Reviews

In the wake of 9/11, Idliby, an American Muslim of Palestinian descent, sought out fellow mothers of the Jewish and Christian faiths to write a children's book on the commonalities among their respective traditions. In their first meeting, however, the women realized they would have to address their differences first. Oliver, an Episcopalian who was raised Catholic, irked Warner, a Jewish woman and children's author, with her description of the Crucifixion story, which sounded too much like "Jews killed Jesus" for Warner's taste. Idliby's efforts to join in on the usual "Judeo-Christian" debate tap into a sense of alienation she already feels in the larger Muslim community, where she is unable to find a progressive mosque that reflects her non-veil-wearing, spiritual Islam. The ladies come to call their group a "faith club" and, over time, midwife each other into stronger belief in

their own respective religions. More Fight Club than book club, the coauthors pull no punches; their outstanding honesty makes for a page-turning read, rare for a religion nonfiction book. From Idliby's graphic defense of the Palestinian cause, Oliver's vacillations between faith and doubt, and Warner's struggles to acknowledge God's existence, almost every taboo topic is explored on this engaging spiritual ride. (Oct. 3) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** Ranya Idliby is a Palestinian Muslim; Suzanne Oliver, an ex-Catholic now in the Episcopal Church; and Priscilla Warner, Jewish. Initially, the idea behind establishing a faith club was simple--the three women would collaborate on an interfaith children's book emphasizing the connections among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam that would reinforce the common heritage the three religions share. In post-9/11 America, however, real life began getting in the way. Almost from the start, differences that culminated in conflict emerged; at one point, the tension even jeopardized the project altogether. Prophetically, while searching for a story to help illustrate connections among the religions, Suzanne chose the Crucifixion, which immediately set off alarm bells for Priscilla. Yet they persevered. All three agreed that to work together they had to be brutally candid, "no matter how rude or politically incorrect." Eventually--and as they make abundantly clear, not easily--conflict and anger gave way to a special kind of rapprochement that merged mutual understanding and respect. Each woman brings to the table her prejudices, unique faith stories, and personal stereotypes and misconceptions (Priscilla, for example, had those of one who had never before met a Palestinian woman). Brimming with passion and conviction, and concluding with suggestions for starting a similar faith club, this is essential reading for anyone interested in interfaith dialogue. June Sawyers Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a terrific book, which gives wonderful, honest look into the similarities and differences between Judaism, Christianity, and the Muslim religion. I found that I would read a chapter, and then think about it for a while before moving on to the next chapter. We read this as a book club book, and everyone found it to be insightful and interesting. It led us to a really vibrant discussion, and we all agreed that we loved it. I will reread it, and have given many copies as gifts, which were equally well received.

I truly enjoyed this book, even though I started out being a bit skeptical. I wasn't sure I wanted to

read a book that might rant and rave over three different religions as the writers could come to agreement or harmony. To my surprise, this "memoir" is filled with serenity and the spiritual light that comes when people truly find a religious "home." It enlightened me and made me think all at the same time. A must read for anyone with a religious conscience--or for those with any kind of conscience!

I'm finding this an excellent overview of the three religions, if perhaps somewhat idealistic and simplistic. I'm a Christian (Episcopal) so the descriptions of our faith fit the kind of Christianity I'm familiar with, but I recognize that more conservative branches of our faith would not agree with many points. That makes me wonder how slanted the descriptions of Judaism and Islam similarly may be. Even so, it's a very easy read and a good introduction to faiths I was not well acquainted with.

I found this book several years ago in the clearance section of a book store. Bought it and read it. It is the perfect book for those of us who don't know much about the modern day Islam & Jewish religions. I purchased it lately on my kindle. I teach Jr. high Sunday School and I do a few weeks on world religions. This book points on those 3 religions and how they live in the society in modern times. It is well worth the purchase.

The book tells the story of three women who met to discuss their respective religions, but it was a bit of a disappointment in that it was not as instructive regarding the faiths, as I expected and hoped it would be. Ernest G. Barr

Wonderful book to explore truths and feelings about the three common religions in America. We want to start a discussion club after reading this excellent book! .

Liked reading views of each woman. Opened my eyes and helps me to not be judgmental. Was recommended by my reading group.

This is an interesting book, and I'd recommend using it in a study group. It's often difficult to keep track of who is writing and with all the addendums at the back, it isn't as comprehensive as it would first appear. The writing is very basic, and I know these women were very passionate about what they were writing about. I do feel as if I know them and I still have 3 chapters to go. If you don't have

any understanding of the 3 religions, this is a very good book to start with. My group has had some amazing conversations!!

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