



The Value Minute® for Faith-Based Organizations

Churches and places of worship are locations where people gather to reflect upon their faith and to connect with others who share those same ideological beliefs. Religion is a ritual that is upheld in many ways – both formally or informally, on a regular basis or at any old time, in a church, at home or as a member a faith-based/supported organization. The Value Minute® reinforces much of what is taught by faith-based/supported organizations but in a manner that is non-sectarian in nature. The features are about basic values that are important enough that most people choose or aspire to live by them. The Value Minute® offers another venue for places of worship or organizations affiliated with a given faith or religion to receive material to help their supporters and followers lead a principled life. The Value Minute® will lift the spirits and underscore the values that are at the core of your group.

Sample Values for Faith Based Organizations Features

- **More Religion?**

A Public Agenda survey found that Americans believe that there would be less crime, greed, and immorality if more people were religious. According to the survey many Americans are strongly religious, but they believe that any effort to impose a specific faith on the public would be wrong. They want tolerance for people of different religions. 58% felt that it was not necessary to believe in God to have good values.

How would you have voted in this survey? Why?

- **Spiritual Hunger?**

David Myers in *The American Paradox: Spiritual Hunger in an Age of Plenty* says that no society has enjoyed the standard of living Americans know today. However, divorce rates, teen suicides, violent crimes, increases in prison population, and incidences of depression point to less happiness today than 40 years ago. Myers concludes that our high standard of living is not enough. We are spiritually hungry. Religion is good for us, he adds.

If Myers is right, why do you think our spiritual needs have not been adequately met?

- **Inclusive or Exclusive Religion?**

Mary Louise Clifford's essay "Why Do They Hate Us?" questions why so many Muslims hate Americans. Citing a Muslim authority, Clifford finds that one group of Muslims accept Christians and Jews as People of the Book and includes them among the righteous who submit to the will of God (the literal meaning of *Islam*). Another group interprets the Qur'an to consider all who do not adhere to their viewpoint *infidels* who must be destroyed.

Is your religious perspective inclusive or exclusive? What difference does that make?