

## COMMUNICATING

### Speaking

- \*We will stop speaking from the need to be "right" and realize that there are always multiple valid realities.
- \*We will speak to express care, empathy, appreciation, and consideration even if we have a different perspective.
- \*We will drop all forms of criticism and contempt in our communication with no exceptions.
- \*we will speak to vulnerably reveal who we are and what is important to us, but not to persuade the other person to be like us because that will only prevent our growth as a couple.

### Listening

- \*We will intentionally listen ONLY to understand each others' perspectives and drop any other agenda of listening to in order to convince, defend, or persuade.
- \*We will become experts at empathy and curiosity so that we can understand the life experiences that have shaped each others' world view and deeply appreciate who they are.
- \*We will listen well so that we can better collaborate from a place of deeply understanding and appreciating each others' different and valid perspectives.

## MODELING

- \*We will model mutual respect, equality, sensitivity, fairness, empathy, collaboration, and creative problem solving to our children/families/others.
- \*We will model the critical skill of learning how to be different and still stay connected which is a much-needed skill in our world!
- \*We will model that we don't need to change people in order to love them.
- \*We will model that sameness does not have to be the root of emotional connection, and that differences can bring deep relational growth and connection.

# A Vision for a Mixed-Faith Marriage

## CREATING

- \*We will create a relationship that has equal room for both of us.
- \*We will create a relationship that has unity not from sameness, but from bringing our differences together to tackle the complexities of life together with our different strengths and life experiences.
- \*We will focus on creating something new, including new rituals, traditions, and meanings for our family that hold meaning for both of us.
  - \*We will resist the strong pull to go backwards to connection through sameness, we will commit to do the hard work to move forward to create something new.
- \*We will create a relationship that supports both of our life dreams and goals and allows us both to become the people that we want to be.

## COLLABORATING

- \*We understand that collaboration and compromise are our new normal and we will master the art of both of these critical skills.
- \*We will not settle for any compromise that is not a win-win solution that honors us both.
- \*We will vulnerably and courageously own our needs so that we can find ways to collaborate around them.
- \*We will humbly accept influence from each other in order to help pull us toward collaboration in the middle.