Task Sheet 4. Studying Significant Texts

Suggested Task
On your own, select a significant short passage or piece of text from your belief system that you particularly like or find important.

Bring this passage with you to your tandem meeting, and read the passage with your partner.

Discuss the role of text within your own belief system.

Aim
To explore the role of writing and text in shaping belief identities or practice.

To discover any rituals associated with religious or other texts, how they are used, what they look and sound like, etc.

Objectives
On your own and with your partner define your objectives for this tandem exercise. What do you want to learn?

Consider asking yourself
What is the place of writing, particularly sacred text or scripture within my religion?
What rituals are associated with writings that are important within my belief?
Are texts that are special to my belief treated in different and special ways, how are they ‘set apart’ from other texts?
How do I relate to my scriptures or important writings about my belief?
What role does it play in my life? When do I read these texts?

Consider asking your tandem partner
You may ask all or none of the suggestions above plus:
Why did you choose to share that particular section of text with me?
What do you need to learn to read your scriptures?
Is your scripture read in English? If not, what does that imply?
Do you use scripture to interpret things that happen in everyday life? If so, how?

Things to reflect on together
- What are our similarities? Why?
- Where do we differ? Why?