



# JUSTFAITH *network*

## Intersectionality: A New Tool for Your Justice Toolbox October 18, 2022

Dear Member of the JustFaith Network,

We are grateful that you are a part of our JustFaith community. Whether you are a graduate of one of our programs or you are just getting to know us, we hope this offering will help sustain you spiritually and/or equip you to work for justice.

Our monthly small group resource is sent on the third Tuesday of each month; you can access an archive of past resources by logging into your JustFaith account. You can invite your friends, family, Sunday School class, or current/past JFM small group to join you in-person or via video conferencing. If you are new to video conferencing, Zoom tutorials are available on our YouTube page — [Click here to access.](#)

While we hope that these resources will inspire and nourish your community, for a more robust experience, consider one of our longer programs. Click [here](#) for more information.

This week's small group experience is enhanced by participants having read a short article; click [here](#) to read. Please share the link in advance so that all participants can come prepared to discuss; you can find the full link in the "Reflection" section that follows.

Last but not least, JustFaith Ministries is a nonprofit organization. All of our work is a collaboration with people like you. When you donate, your gift helps us sustain and equip individuals committed to making the world better. [Click here to help out.](#)

Also, please feel free to forward this resource to friends and family! In fact, we urge you to do so. We want this resource to reach as many people as possible.

Thanks for all you do in the name of love and justice,  
The JustFaith Ministries Staff



## Welcome and Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

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When everyone has dialed in, begin your time together with these or similar words:

Welcome, friends! It's so good to be with all of you. Today we'll begin with an opening prayer and spend a few minutes checking in with each other. Then we'll have some conversation about the reflection, before closing in prayer. This a time to care for one another and to be inspired to grow and act.

Let's take a few seconds of silence to pause, to listen to our breathing, and to be present in this space.

*Pause for 30 seconds before beginning the opening prayer*

### Opening Prayer Blessing the Threshold

This blessing  
has been waiting for you  
for a long time.  
While you have been  
making your way here,  
this blessing has been  
gathering itself,  
making ready,  
biding its time,  
praying.  
This blessing has been  
polishing the door,  
oiling the hinges,  
sweeping the steps,  
lighting candles  
in the windows.  
This blessing has been  
setting the table  
as it hums a tune  
from an old song  
it knows,  
something about  
a spiraling road  
and bread  
and grace.  
All this time  
it has kept an eye



on the horizon,  
watching,  
keeping vigil,  
hardly aware of how  
it was leaning itself  
in your direction.  
And now that  
you are here,  
this blessing  
can hardly believe  
its good fortune  
that you have finally arrived,  
that it can drop everything  
at last  
to fling its arms wide  
to you, crying  
welcome,  
welcome,  
welcome.

- Jan Richardson

## Check-In Time (10 minutes or so)

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Ask these open-ended questions. If you are by yourself, journal about them.

*Note: If you are with a group, these questions have the potential to take up a lot of time. Some weeks may require more check-in time than others, depending on the needs of the group. To provide a shorter yet meaningful check-in time, choose ONE of the questions below, and ask participants to share a ONE sentence response.*

- **Before we begin our reflection, let's take a few minutes to check in. How is everyone feeling?** (It will be a bit more difficult via phone to know if someone is being talked over or is trying to get a word in.... Be sure everyone has a chance to speak).
- **What is something you're struggling with this week?**
- **Where have you seen a sign of hope this week?**

*Other optional questions include: Where have you experienced a "thin place" in the last week? Where have you seen beauty this week?*

## Reflection (25 minutes or so)

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Participants should have read the article below:

Article: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/what-is-intersectionality-explained>

### Discussion questions

1. What did you find most compelling about the article?
2. Near the beginning of the article, the author highlights how intersectionality helps us better understand the pay gap. What issues have you addressed or studied that benefit from being considered through the lens of intersectionality?
3. In the “What Can I do?” section, the author asks us to put this concept into practice by being aware of your own identity and privilege. Spend some time sharing with each other your understanding of your own privilege.
4. What is your insight, hope, or prayer consequent to this discussion?

## Announcements (5-10 minutes)

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- Join us on Zoom this Thursday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time for a live presentation. Author/Speaker Bob Hunter will address the topic, “Surviving Hard Times: Lessons from the Black Church.” Register [here](#).
- This resource is a small sample of the kinds of conversations had in our 8-session programs. For a more intensive experience, see a description of our programs; click [here](#).
- Let participants know that the materials for this gathering were free, put together by the JustFaith Ministries staff to equip more people for the work of peace and justice. To support the creation of more resources and programs, participants are encouraged to donate to JustFaith Ministries; click [here](#).
- Are there any opportunities for action or advocacy happening in your community this week? Invite participants to share ways to support the work of local groups advocating for peace, working for justice, or caring for the environment.

## Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

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Then say: **Before we join in the closing prayer, let us pause to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is as close as our very breath.**

*Pause for 30 seconds. Then share the reflection below.*

### Questions of Faith

What is the foolishness that ever made us think that

Some places were sacred and some just, well, plain?

What insanity taught us that God was here but not there?

So, you tell me, what spot, what thing, what street or forest, what person

Was not created by God? What country, what people, is more favored by God?

What spot on earth was deemed suitable by God for coal ash or slums?

What choice in our lives does not hold within it the possibility for integrity – Where we work? Where we live? How we travel from here to there? What we eat? How we eat? How we keep warm and keep cool? What we do with our time? What we do with what we don't need – our money, our time, our gifts?

What choice do we make that does not happen in a world pulsing with an invitation to be mindful and loving?

Shall I love my child and not your child? Shall I love my best friend and not my worst enemy? Shall I care for this color of skin and not that?

How shall I shout God's holy justice? Every way possible.

When shall I shout God's holy justice? Always.

Where shall I shout God's holy justice? In every choice, in every moment, in every place.

- Jack Jezreel

Then, in these words, invite any participants who have a prayer, a concern, or a request to briefly share it:

**We are disciples on a journey.**

**We are the body of Christ, broken for the world.**

**We hold one another as we carry the concerns of our neighbors.**

**If you feel moved, please share your prayer aloud.**

*Pause*



We pray also for the members of the JustFaith community across the country. Unite us through the power of your Holy Spirit, that together we might participate with you in the building of your Kingdom, in order to create a more just and peaceful world.

Amen.