



Spirituality for a New Social Order July 19, 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 reflection; click [here](#) for the reflection. 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)

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

Lord, hear our prayer:

Today we face a time of global crisis.

During this season teach us to understand the love that drove you to give everything to save us all.

Give us the strength that only comes in weakness; the renewal that only comes through death and resurrection.

Today many of us feel weakened, burdened, and overwhelmed by the challenges and uncertainties that lie ahead.

We ask that your strength be made perfect in our time of weakness.

While each of us is hurt by hard times, it is the people around the world living on less than \$1/day, facing hunger, thirst, and illness, who bear the greatest burden of all crises.

We pray that out of our own weakness comes a generosity of justice, mercy, and humility for those who bear burdens greater than our own.

Help us to remember that you are the God who, out of nothing, made everything.

The God who still has the power today to remake us.

So let us be remade, not overcome, by our global crisis; let us be purified, and not laid low, by injustice, greed, and inequality.



Let us commit ourselves to: Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, and with all those who suffer or want.

This is our moment to change the world.

Because it is at our moment of crisis where your strength and your light, revealed to the world by our faith, become a force that is stronger than fear or death.

Today, move us to become the answer to our prayers.

Give us the strength to respond, in our own time of need, to the needs of those who have the least in our world.

Lead us to be your agents of hope and renewal during this season of redemption.

For it is only in You that we have the power to change things; it is only because of You that we have the promise of renewal; and yet it is through us that You seek to do all these things.

Amen.

Adapted from *Sojourners* online: click [here](#).

Check-In Time (10 minutes or so)

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)

Participants should have read the article and optional background paper below:

Reflection:

<https://email.cac.org/t/ViewEmail/d/4AE4FF77277BF16D2540EF23F30FEDED/7E95ADB82FE7ADC8BD4C707EBCCB890?alternativeLink=False>

Discussion questions

1. What did you find most compelling about the article?
2. Rohr writes at the end of the first paragraph, “Just keep concentrating on the Big Thing you are *for!*” What does this mean for your own life?
3. In the second paragraph, Rohr defines church as a kind of example of people living the new social order. Does this describe your church? If so, how? If not, why not?
4. In the last paragraph, Rohr suggests there could well be new models of faith communities forming. How does this resonate with your own experience?
5. What is your insight, hope, or prayer consequent to reading the article(s)?

Announcements (5-10 minutes)

- Join us on Zoom this Thursday, July 21, at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time when Archbishop John Wester of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe who will discuss his pastoral letter, "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament," in which he calls for a rejuvenated and sustained conversation about verifiable, world-wide nuclear disarmament. To register, click [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)

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.

Be not afraid.
Be not afraid to smile.
Be not afraid to laugh.
Be not afraid to dance.
Be not afraid to chuckle at your mistakes.

Be not afraid to celebrate.
Be not afraid to rejoice at another's good fortune.
Be not afraid to congratulate the other for big and little things.
Be not afraid to apologize.
Be not afraid to forgive.

Be not afraid to give away.
Be not afraid to be generous.
Be not afraid to make reparations.
Be not afraid to take the next step.
Be not afraid to change your life (you will still be able to breathe).

Be not afraid to remember what hurts.
Be not afraid to talk about something hard.
Be not afraid to put your toe in the water of the painful.
Be not afraid to ask someone to listen to a wound you're carrying.
Be not afraid to listen to someone's wounds.

Be not afraid to fast, to feel hungry, to do without.
Be not afraid to feed the hungry who are not voluntarily fasting.
Be not afraid to stand up for what's right.
Be not afraid to write a love letter or carry a protest sign.
Be not afraid to pray.

Be not afraid.



**Be everything you want to be.
Be full of life and love.
Be faithful and big-hearted.
Whatever you do, BE NOT AFRAID.**

Amen.

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.