

*Just*Faith

*Purpose. From a
new perspective.*

JustFaith Week 13

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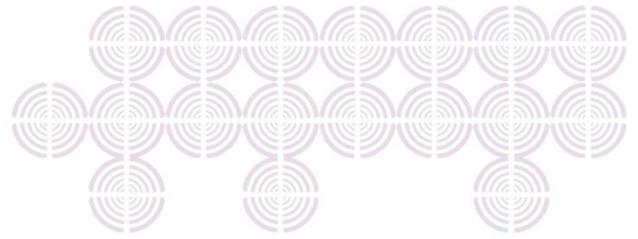


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Note to Co-Facilitators

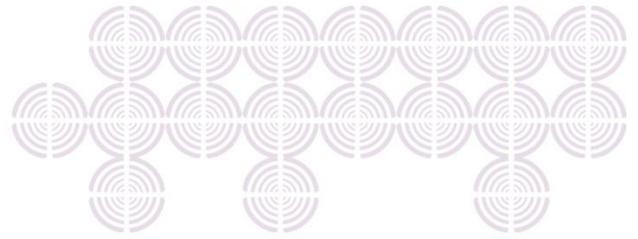
Compared to many church-related programs, JustFaith may be more complex to implement, but implementation can be made easier through regular co-facilitator meetings. It is helpful for the co-facilitators to meet on a regular basis for several reasons. The first is to do an ongoing assessment of the group's process. During this session, the group will do an assessment of its process; in the same spirit, it is important for the co-facilitators to do this on an on-going basis. Discuss any difficulties or concerns that have surfaced. Help each other refer back to the suggestions and materials in the Co-Facilitators' Responsibilities and Training document. Encourage someone to contact the JustFaith Ministries staff about issues within the group that are difficult to resolve.

A second reason to meet is to evaluate how the facilitation process is working. Discuss the facilitation method that was chosen and evaluate its effectiveness. Is there a smooth transition from one co-facilitator to another regardless of whether you have chosen to share a session or rotate sessions? Do facilitators come prepared? Do co-facilitators help with the group process if needed, even if it is not their assigned segment? Is there an even division of labor among co-facilitators? Are there any difficulties in ordering or copying materials? It is important to address facilitation issues throughout the program. This is also a time to encourage each other and give each other support and positive feedback for the successes the group is experiencing.

Another reason to meet regularly is to evaluate prayer. Is there a visual prayer environment created for each session? Are participants invited to prayer appropriately and brought into this sacred time together? Is prayer done slowly, deliberately, and reverently, with moments of silence? Does the opening prayer set the tone for the whole meeting, acknowledging that your time together is a sacred time and that the Spirit is with you and with each participant? If prayers are being coordinated by participants, are they achieving the above goals? If not, how can the co-facilitators be helpful?

Of course, one more reason to meet regularly is to plan and assign responsibilities for session components and other program elements. It is a time to report on the planning for upcoming events, such as an immersion experience. Finally, be sure to evaluate if co-facilitators have other needs that are not being met. This program is usually very rewarding for co-facilitators. We encourage you to do everything to make this a good experience for your group members and yourselves.

Let prayer permeate the work you do together. Our prayers continue for your group.



Week Thirteen Components

Preparation for Week Thirteen

- Review Week Thirteen session information.
- Copy Week Thirteen handouts and agreed upon group guidelines from Week Two.
- Assure prayer material has been given to the participant prayer leader, if appropriate.
- Gather prayer items.
- Locate copies of How Much is Enough? to distribute.

Timing of the Session

Activity	Minutes
Prayer	10
Discuss Group Process	15
General Program Discussion	40
Break	10
Business	5
Discuss Spiritual Practice	20
Discuss reading	45
Closing prayer	5
Total	150

Welcome

Welcome participants warmly, then begin with prayer.

Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

Distribute **Week 13: Attachment A**. Mark Bible at Galatians 3:26-29 and assign a reader.



Scripture Reading

Read Galatians 3:26-29. Share these prayerful words:

Some Bible scholars believe that verse 28 was part of the baptismal ritual in the early church: *“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”*

Imagine how radical this declaration sounded! This proclamation of unity was made in a society that stratified and segregated these categories of people.

Does Paul’s claim sound radical to our ears today? Would we be able to proclaim as Christians that there is no more poor or rich, no more black or white, no more conservative or liberal, but ALL are one in Christ Jesus?

Pause for silent reflection. Close with the litany of faithful witnesses on **Participant Handout A**.

First Half (55 minutes)

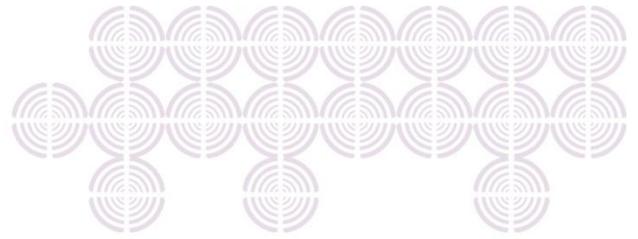
Group Process Discussion (15 minutes)

Ask participants to locate their copies of the agreed upon group guidelines from Week Two, or distribute extra. Allow a couple of minutes for participants to review the guidelines and make notes on the group’s process thus far. Then pose the questions below to the group:

- What are the good aspects of the group’s process?
- What guidelines does the group follow consistently?
- What guidelines does the group need to focus on?
- Does the group stay on track? Is it easily brought back to the topic at hand?
- Has there been conflict or tension during the meetings that could have been addressed differently?
- What recommendations do group members have for future meetings?

You may want to pose these questions for individual reflection:

- In what specific ways have I contributed to the group? How have I grown spiritually in the JustFaith process to this point?
- Have I been faithful to my original commitments to the group (attendance, reading assignments, etc)?



General Reflection on the Program (40 Minutes)

Ask participants to spend five minutes in silence reflecting on the following questions. Invite participants to share thoughts from their reflection.

- In general, how am I feeling at this point in the program?
- What are the biggest challenges I am facing at this point?
- Where do I find the most encouragement on this journey?
- What do I need from my fellow participants?

Break (10 minutes)

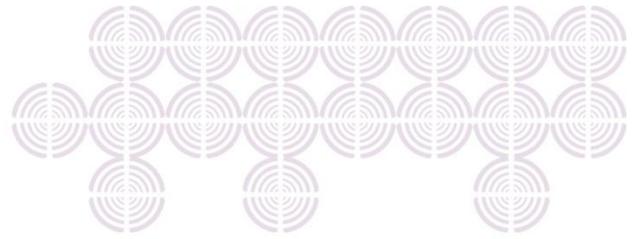
Business Items (5 minutes)

1. Pass out copies of How Much is Enough? Share with the group that, starting next week, we will spend three weeks looking at consumerism and voluntary simplicity with the help of this text, our discussions and some exercises.
2. Assign reading for next week: How Much is Enough?, pages 15-76; and “Note to Participants for Week Fourteen.”
3. Distribute “Note to Participants for Week Fourteen.”
4. Notify participants of guest speaker(s) for Week Fourteen on voluntary simplicity.

Second Half (65 minutes)

Discuss Spiritual Practice (20 minutes)

Ask each participant to speak to their observations related to the diversity of color and culture (or lack of) in their immediate and extended family, neighborhoods, workplace, grocery store, school, church, theatre, gym, volunteer location, etc. Also ask participants to speak to the cultural diversity among those with whom they talked over the last two weeks. Ask what insights participants had as they did this exercise.



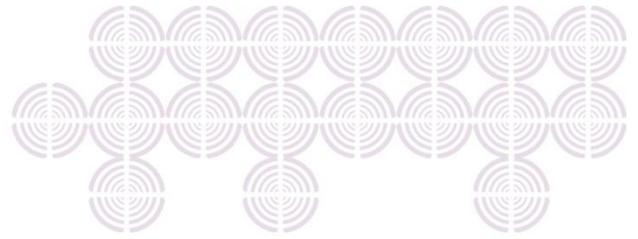
Discuss Reading (45 minutes)

- Rising to Common Ground, pages 83-126
 - Cloud of Witnesses, “Myles Horton” pages 90-100
1. In the first half of Chapter Nine (pages 83-89), Collum addresses the controversial and ticklish question of the preponderance of single-parent households among African-Americans and concludes, “[N]o one can deny that a transforming intervention is needed for African-American families. It is equally clear that the initiative for this transformation must come from within the African-American community... White people of good will can encourage and support such initiatives in ways that are requested” (page 88). What is your response to the author’s conclusion?
 2. In the second half of Chapter Ten (pages 89-93), the author chronicles the data demonstrating the fact of discrimination in the criminal justice system. Were any of your assumptions or perspectives on these issues challenged? How did you develop your perspective on these issues?
 3. In Chapter Ten, we get an overview of the debate concerning affirmative action and reparations. How can the Christian community help further dialogue on these issues?
 4. In Chapter Eleven, we read of some wonderful examples of how Christian churches have been instrumental in addressing racism (pages 104-112). What efforts is your own church involved in to address racism?
 5. What aspects of Rising to Common Ground have been most provocative to you?
 6. In Cloud of Witnesses, Myles Horton comments in the middle of page 96: “If you’re not facing some kind of resistance from the people in power, then you must be a traitor to your cause. So you can be sure that if you’re accepted by people who are struggling, then you’re going to be harassed by people who want to keep the status quo. So in a way it’s a measure of your involvement.” Do you think Horton is correct? Describe your own experience of facing resistance? Do Horton’s words reiterate the testimony of Jesus on the cross?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Share this closing reflection:

**Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges,
the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.**



Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents,
 beyond gender, beyond skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness.
So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun be so strong
 that we will see all people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers
 to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven.
Amen. Rabbi Harold S. Kushner

A Circle of Prayer

Invite the group to form a tight circle and link hands:

We are disciples on a journey.

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

Let us quietly pray for one another and for our brothers and sisters in need.

(Pause)

If someone has a concern, a word of encouragement, or a short prayer to offer, please do so.

Reflection

Read aloud the final paragraph on page 89 from Cloud of Witnesses.

A Sign of God's Peace

Leader: **Now we share in the peace for which our world hungers.**
 With a sign of peace we affirm one another for the journey ahead.
 May we extend God's peace to all!