

# *Just*Faith

*Purpose. From a  
new perspective.*

## JustFaith Week 29

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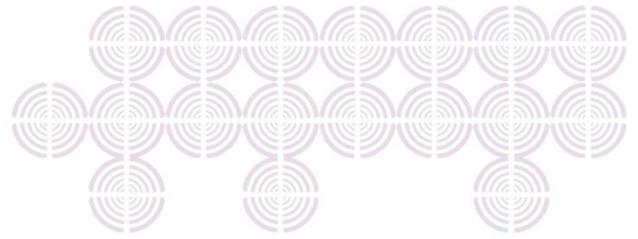


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## Note to Co-Facilitators

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This week, the program materials focus upon the intimate calling being felt by individual members of your group. For so much of the program, emphasis is placed upon the lived experience of communities: communities who face injustice and poverty and/or communities who join together to work for justice and compassion. We are assured, however, that just as the Holy Spirit works in community to bring about God's realm, so, too, does the Holy Spirit work in individual lives for transformation and inspiration. The Spirit calls upon all humankind to listen for the calling of God, and we hope that this week's activities might help foster that kind of reflection and discernment.

As you go through the activities of this week – discussing the Parker Palmer text, engaging in the discernment exercise and watching the Rob Bell video, “Dust” – walk intentionally, but lightly. Know that these intentional, focused acts of reflection can truly be life-changing for participants. They can provide insight and hope. They can also provide challenge and harsh realities. It can be difficult for participants to near these final weeks, knowing that the days are coming when action and life-changes may be required. For this reason, consider, in these closing weeks, how your group's time can be particularly supportive and encouraging. These last weeks are less about learning information than about discerning the still, quiet voice of God within.

Keep in mind that, in addition to the final week's time together, the discernment process will continue during the Closing Retreat.

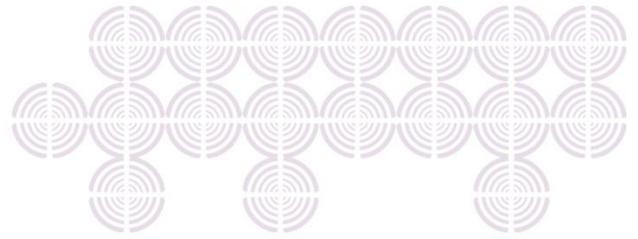
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## Week Twenty-Nine Components

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### Preparation for Week Twenty-Nine

- Review Session Twenty-Nine information.
- Copy Week 29 handouts (A Letter to Each Graduate).
- Locate copy of the video “**Dust**” and assure availability of necessary viewing equipment.
- Bring your JustFaith group's copy of Prayers for The New Social Awakening and find “As We Discern Our Vocation,” page 60. Assign a prayer reader.
- Gather prayer items: A Bible, a real or toy stethoscope
- Assign a Scripture Reader for Micah 6: 6-8.



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## Timing of the Session

Activity	Minutes
Prayer	10
Discuss reading	50
Break	10
Business	10
Discuss discernment exercise	45
View “Dust”	20
Closing prayer	5
Total	150

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## Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

*You will need:* A Bible marked at Micah 6: 6-8, Prayers for The New Social Awakening, a real or toy stethoscope

*Symbols:* A stethoscope – a tool to listen to our heart

*Environment:* Candle and prayer cloth

## Introducing the Symbols

Gather the group in a circle. Hold up the stethoscope and introduce the symbol with these words:

**A stethoscope...A device to listen to the beat of one’s own heart.**

**To listen to one’s own heart...To listen.**

## Call to Prayer

Sit in the circle holding the stethoscope and share these words:

**On this night, we will listen to our hearts,**

**To listen to what God might be saying to us in the stillness.**

**Let us be very attentive.**



Pass the stethoscope and invite participants to hold the symbol for a brief moment of silent prayer before passing it on. Offer the call to prayer while the stethoscope moves around the circle:

**Jesus, in your name we gather. You are here in our midst.**

**In the presence of your Spirit, we become your body.**

**To listen . . . to share . . . to learn . . . to care . . .**

**and to pray for one another.**

**Move within us. Move among us.**

**Spirit of Compassion, bind us to one another.**

**Propel us out into your world to be your compassionate justice.**

When the stethoscope has gone around the circle, replace it in the center.

## Scripture Reading

**Read Micah 6: 6-8.** Pause for a minute of silent reflection before beginning the prayer “As We Discern Our Vocation,” page 60 from [Prayers for The New Social Awakening](#).

## Prayer of the Heart

Introduce the mantra prayer (adapted from Jeremiah 31:33) in this way:

Leader: **Let us take prayer to heart. Echo this simple prayer, line by line:**

**Deep within, I will plant my law.**

All repeat: Deep within, I will plant my law.

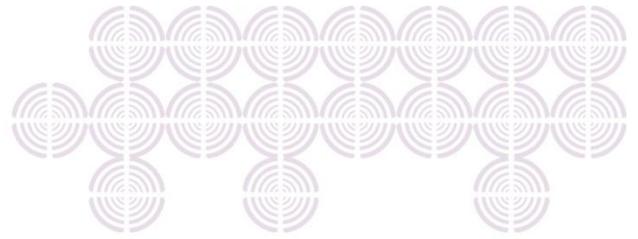
Leader: **Not on stone, but in your hearts.**

All repeat: Not on stone, but in your hearts.

Leader: **Let this prayer echo in our hearts.**

## Rite of Blessing

Leader: **Holy Spirit, inspire our thoughts. May we speak your truth. May our hearts be opened. Let us say “Amen.”**



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## First Half (50 minutes)

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### Discuss Reading

Do not be concerned with covering all of these questions. Select those questions that would best further your group's dialogue.

- Let Your Life Speak, pp. 56 – 109
- 1. What experiences in your life have brought you “down to the ground” toward wholeness (page 66)? How have these grounding experiences brought you to a “firmer and fuller sense of self” (page 70)?
- 2. Have someone read the first full paragraph at the top of page 78. How have you become more aware of your “complicity in world making” during the JustFaith process? What “hope for change” has this awareness brought you?
- 3. Take a moment to review the five “shadow-casting monsters” Palmer highlights on pp. 86-90. Which of these monsters most resonate with you? How have you engaged these monsters in the past? How might you engage them in the future, especially as you seek to “cast less shadow and more light”?
- 4. At the end of Chapter Five, Palmer encourages us to help one another explore our inner lives (91). “Inner work, though it is a deeply personal matter, is not necessarily a private matter: inner work can be helped along in community” (92). What might it look like for you to help others engage in their inner work? What might it look like for you to invite or allow others to help you with your inner work?
- 5. Take a moment to review Palmer's descriptions of the seasons on pp. 98-109. In which of the four seasons—autumn, winter, spring and summer—do you currently find yourself? What is this particular season teaching you about yourself and your vocation?

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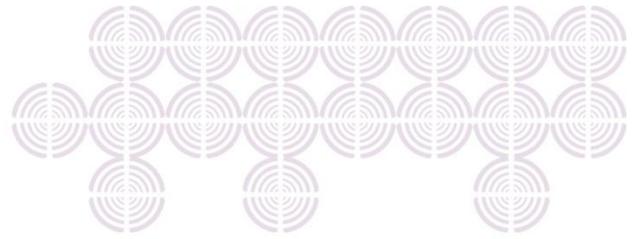
## Break (10 minutes)

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### Business Items (10 minutes)

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1. Assign reading for next session: “Note to Participants for Week Thirty.”
2. Pass out “Note to Participants for Week Thirty.” Take a moment to point out that this final note from the JustFaith Ministries national office includes important information about ongoing formation opportunities available to JustFaith graduates as well as more about how they can support the work of JustFaith Ministries nationally.



3. Encourage participants to bring their evaluations to the next session, if using the paper evaluation format. Remind participants using online evaluations to please complete them.
4. Discuss the logistics for the Closing Retreat, if needed.
5. Discuss logistics for a celebration during Week 30, if appropriate.

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## Second Half (65 minutes)

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### Discuss Discernment Exercise Part II (40 minutes)

Break into groups of three or four. Ask participants to share some of their reflections from this exercise, which was handed out last week. Please note the time allocations for each part of the discernment exercise, and encourage the small groups to progress at the end of each section.

### View and Discuss Film, “Dust” (25 minutes)

View “Dust” (15 minutes). Introduce the video with these or similar words:

**As we near the end of our journey, it is important for us to consider the role that discipleship plays in our continuation of this journey. Rob Bell, a minister in Grand Rapids, Michigan, here explains some of the ancient understandings of discipleship and explores how those traditions can transform how we understand ourselves to be disciples.**

After the film has concluded, allow for any general comments before introducing any of the following questions:

- Compare Bell’s exploration of the ancient role of a disciple with consideration of Jesus’ disciples. How are they different? How are they related? How did Bell’s consideration influence your understanding of yourself as a disciple?
- What does the idea of “being covered in the dust of your rabbi” mean to you? How do you understand this in relation to your JustFaith journey?

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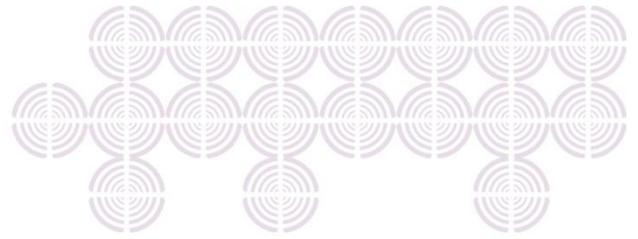
## Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

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### Returning to the Symbol

Pick up the stethoscope and, with these words of blessing, take it out of the circle:

**Let us listen to the beat of our hearts and the great journey to which God beckons us.**



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## 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.**

## Words to Live By

Return to the mantra prayer and invite the group to echo it again.

Leader: **Let us again take prayer to heart. Repeat the prayer after me:**

**Deep within, I will plant my law,**

All repeat: **Deep within, I will plant my law,**

Leader: **Not on stone, but in your hearts.**

All repeat: **Not on stone, but in your hearts.**

Leader: **May this prayer echo in our hearts throughout the week, as we walk, while we work, as we rest and when we pray for one another. Let us especially pray for each other as we reflect on engaging in social ministry and prepare for the final retreat.**

## 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!**