

Justice Walking

*A journey of being rooted
and grounded in love.*



PUBLIC DIALOGUE

In partnership with



Catholic
Campaign
for Human
Development



With additional support from: Catholic Charities USA

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

2 HOURS

Overview J-Walkers offer presentations to invited guests. Co-facilitators welcome guests, guide prayer, introduce J-Walkers as they present, and facilitate the flow of the dialogue.

Environment Where possible, preserve the circular, inclusive dynamic of the JusticeWalking sessions. A three-quarter circle that leaves a focal space for the presenters is an ideal setup. Consider the need for a podium, sound system, or props. Put the prayer cloth in a prominent place along with the candle, Bible, and other symbols. Allow enough time between the conclusion of the Commissioning Retreat and the guests arrive in order to set up the room, make preparations, and properly welcome guests.

SUPPLIES FOR THIS SESSION:	BROUGHT BY:
Prayer cloth	
Pillar candle and matches	
Bible	
Current newspaper	
CD player and companion CD	
Snacks (optional)	
Other supplies as needed by J-Walkers for their presentations	

CO-FACILITATOR TASKS:	DONE BY:
Review materials and gather supplies.	
Delegate facilitation roles.	
Identify session format and content.	
Discuss needs for the session with other J-Walkers.	

Invitations

The Public Dialogue provides family, friends, mentors, and parish/school contacts with an opportunity to share in the J-Walking process. J-Walkers should invite people who are already broadly receptive to the personal and social demands of the Gospel. To guarantee a manageable audience, each J-Walker should personally invite family members and a few friends. Extend invitations at least two weeks before the scheduled date of the Public Dialogue.

Group Participation

Co-facilitators are expected to offer a short presentation as well as oversee this session. After each set of presentations, J-Walkers join the guests and participate in the small-group dialogue.

Suggested Timeline

Your personal experiences, encounters, struggles, and discoveries along this journey will shape the format of this gathering. Lean on the wisdom of your group to discern the flow of the Dialogue. This space is an opportunity to authentically share the transformational power of this process with others. **Be inspired, and be inspiring!**

Co-Facilitator Tasks

The co-facilitators for this session are responsible for the following:

- working with other J-Walkers to determine the format and content for the dialogue
- welcoming guests and leading opening prayer
- introducing presenters
- directing any small-group dialogue and large-group sharing that might occur
- keeping the process on track
- adjourning and reconvening the group at break
- leading closing prayer

Co-facilitators and J-Walkers should design the Public Dialogue together. Browse the J-Walker Journal to glean inspiration for the questions and challenges. The opening and closing moments reflect the pattern of the other J-Walking sessions. The prayer cloth, signing ritual, Praying the News, and closing provide guests with a taste of the J-Walking experience.

Possible Public Dialogue Elements

Consider the following ideas for your public session:

- Lead guests through Praying the News.
- Offer short (3-5 minute) presentations on the key elements of the J-Walking process:
 - Praying the News
 - Meeting at the Margins sessions
 - *No Room at the Table* and *Everyday Justice* readings
 - Just Witnesses
 - spiritual practices
 - the Justice Pilgrimage
 - other meaningful elements
- Invite guests to engage in small-group dialogue on questions developed by J-Walkers.
- Have each J-Walker share a brief reflection on their JusticeWalking experience:
 - What was most challenging?
 - What was most inspiring?
 - Which spiritual practice was most meaningful for you?
 - How have you been changed by the process?
- Share a prayer or poem from the journal or a song that has been meaningful.
- Share stories or pictures of friends you made at the Meeting at the Margins sessions.
- Challenge guests to embrace the lifestyle changes you have made through J-Walking.

Sample Public Dialogue Outline

This outline represents a suggested and simplified format for the session. You are encouraged to be creative! Include additional prayers, rituals, music, and other components that reflect your group's personality and your unique JusticeWalking experience.

GATHERING 10 minutes

G.1 Blessing (immediately before the session)

Gather J-Walkers into a circle for a moment of quiet awareness:

Holy Spirit, empower us to speak gospel truth to the hearts of our people.

G.2 Welcome

Offer a few words of welcome. Introduce the J-Walkers; invite guests to introduce themselves to their immediate neighbors. Explain the process for the Dialogue:

You are invited to J-Walk with us, to join us as we hold up our lives to the light of the Gospel. This dialogue is about listening and sharing from the heart.

G.3 Signing

Light the candle and invite everyone to make a sign of the cross:

Compassionate God, in the light of your presence we ask you to open...

Our minds to your truth... (Touch forehead)

Our hearts to your compassion... (Touch chest)

Our arms to your people... (Touch left, right shoulders)

G.4 Praying the News

Pick up the newspaper and reflect on a previously selected story, inviting everyone to respond with:

Lord have mercy... or Lamb of God...

1

FIRST SET OF PRESENTATIONS 25 minutes

1.1 Presentations (10 minutes)

Open space for the first set of J-Walkers to come forward one at a time to offer their wisdom.

1.2 Small Group Dialogue (10 minutes)

After all presenters have made their short presentations, invite guests to form small dialogue groups of three to four people. Challenge guests to rearrange their seats and join with people who are less familiar to them. J-Walkers spread themselves throughout the assembly to join dialogue groups. Invite small group members to introduce themselves.

Before you pose a question for the guests to consider, offer these guidelines:

Deeper than discussion, dialogue is an end in itself. It is about hearing and sharing personal struggles and wisdom. In dialogue, we seek to understand, not convince one another. No resolutions, conclusions, summaries, or decisions are needed.

Present the first dialogue question to the small groups.

1.3 Feedback and Challenge (5 minutes)

After ten minutes, refocus the large group. Invite guests to share the wisdom of their dialogue with the assembly. In closing, extend a practical challenge to all gathered as one way to live the Gospel.

2

SECOND SET OF PRESENTATIONS 25 minutes

2.1 Presentations (10 minutes)

Open space for the next set of J-Walkers to come forward one at a time to offer their wisdom.

2.2 Small Group Dialogue (10 minutes)

Refer to the above example to creatively foster dialogue.

2.3 Feedback and Challenge (5 minutes)

Refer to the above example to share the wisdom of those assembled. Offer a challenge to the large group to embody gospel justice in their daily lives.

SENDING

S.1 Thanksgiving

Affirm and thank those gathered for their attendance and participation.

S.3 Closing

Invite everyone to stand and hold hands, forming a complete circle.
Close with words of blessing:

***We go in peace, with minds, hearts, and arms open wide
to the challenges of the Gospel.***

(Touch forehead) ***God of compassion, touch our relationships,***
(Touching chest) ***Heart of Christ, make us good news for the poor,***
(Touch left, right shoulder) ***Spirit of Justice, inspire us to restore your world.***
AMEN!

End the session by inviting everyone gathered to share a sign of peace.

Attachment A

Guidelines for Presenters and Facilitators

Every J-Walker is encouraged to offer a three-minute personal sharing at the Public Dialogue. You are advised to write out your presentation. This will help you to feel prepared and focus your message. It will also keep you faithful to the three-minute timeslot.

Use these questions to shape your presentation:

- What has been most challenging to you about being a J-Walker?
- What do you do now because you CARE deeply about life?
- What has most surprised, touched, or inspired you about yourself, your group, the process?

Keep these points in mind as you compose your presentation:

- Keep your message clear and concise.
- Speak from the heart and from your own experience.
- Aim to be more inspiring than informative.
- Find a creative idea or symbol to reinforce your message: an image, a poem, a Scripture passage, music, or a picture.
- Remember, you are prophets! Begin the process in prayer: **“God, use us to speak to the heart of your people.”**

Suggestions for Presentations

Make your presentation a creative expression of your gifts. Put your personal J-Walking struggles, experiences, and questions into the presentation. Describe one of the following aspects of J-Walking in your presentation:

- Your experience during the Meeting at the Margins sessions
- Your struggle with one of the spiritual practices
- An exercise or reflection from one of the session themes
- A prayer or poem that has become central in your prayer and journaling
- The story of one of the Just Witnesses
- Something that has touched your heart from the readings
- An experience with your J-Walking group

Suggestions for Co-facilitators: *Dialogue Questions and Practical Challenges*

Create at least four (open-ended) questions for the small-group dialogues that invite guests to share what they found inspiring or challenging in the presentation. Encourage people to share their own life experience and their struggle to live justly.

Conclude each set of presentations with a practical challenge that indicates an action or attitude people can integrate into their lives. Avoid asking others to do something that you are not already struggling to implement in your own life. Be mindful of the realistic expectations and potential of the people gathered.