

*Just*Faith

*Purpose. From a
new perspective.*

JustFaith Syllabus Overview

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(502) 429-0865

In partnership with



Week	Assignments (to be completed prior to the session)	Session Information	
		First Half	Second Half
1	None	Introductions	Overview of the program
2	<u>Compassion</u> , pages 1-20 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “St. Francis of Assisi,” pgs 3-8 Review “Group Guidelines,” Week 1: Handout B “Note to Participants for Week Two”	View and discuss “When Did I See You Hungry”	Discuss readings from <u>Compassion</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>
3	<u>Compassion</u> , pgs 21-43 “Note to Participants for Week Three”	Discuss reading from <u>Compassion</u>	Scripture Study
4	<u>Make Poverty Personal</u> , pgs 15-63 “Note to Participants for Week Four”	Discuss reading from <u>Make Poverty Personal</u>	View and discuss segment from the DVD, “Another World Is Possible”
5	<u>Tattoos on the Heart</u> , pgs 1-60 “Note to Participants for Week Five”	Guest Speaker on Local Poverty (see p. 5 for details)	Discuss reading from <u>Tattoos on the Heart</u> Assign spiritual practice
6	<u>Make Poverty Personal</u> , pgs 83-135 “Note to Participants for Week Six” Spiritual practice	Discuss Group Process	Discuss reading from <u>Make Poverty Personal</u>
7	<u>Tattoos on the Heart</u> , pgs 61-128 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Clarence Jordan,” pgs 60-65 “Note to Participants for Week Seven” Spiritual practice	Discuss readings from <u>Tattoos on the Heart</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> Discuss spiritual practice	View “Waiting on the World to Change” and discuss
8	<u>Tattoos on the Heart</u> , pgs 129-212 “Note to Participants for Week Eight”	Discuss reading from <u>Tattoos on the Heart</u>	Discuss Charity & Justice Share Denominational resources

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9	<u>Compassion</u> , pgs 47-84 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Dorothy Day,” pgs 9-14 “Note to Participants for Week Nine”	Discuss assigned readings from <u>Compassion</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>	View “Portrait of a Radical” and discuss
10	<u>Make Poverty Personal</u> , pgs 136-157 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Henri Nouwen,” pgs 72-77 “Note to Participants for Week Ten”	Discuss readings from <u>Make Poverty Personal</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>	Discuss Budget Activity
11	<u>Rising to Common Ground</u> , pgs vii-35 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Martin Luther King, Jr.,” pgs 81-89 “Note to Participants for Week Eleven”	Guest speaker(s) on racism (see p. 5 for details)	Discuss readings from <u>Rising to Common Ground</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>
12	<u>Rising to Common Ground</u> , pages 37-81 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Fannie Lou Hamer,” pgs 101-109 “Note to Participants for Week Twelve” <i>Spiritual Practice</i> – Observe diversity	Discuss readings from <u>Rising to Common Ground</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>	View and discuss film “Come Walk in My Shoes”
13	<u>Rising to Common Ground</u> , pgs 83-126 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Myles Horton,” pgs 90-100 “Note to Participants for Week Thirteen” <i>Spiritual Practice</i> – Observe diversity	Group Process Discussion and Reflection on JustFaith process in general	Discuss readings from <u>Rising to Common Ground</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> Discuss Spiritual Practice from Week 11
14	<u>How Much is Enough?</u> , pgs 15-76 “Note to Participants for Week Fourteen”	Guest speaker(s) on simple living (see p. 5 for details)	Discuss <u>How Much is Enough?</u>
15	<u>How Much is Enough?</u> , pgs 77-128 “Note to Participants for Week Fifteen” <i>Spiritual Practice</i> – Fasting from food	View and discuss film, “Keeping the Earth”	Discuss reading from <u>How Much Is Enough?</u> Discuss spiritual practice

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16	<u>How Much Is Enough?</u> , pgs 129-186 “Note to Participants for Week Sixteen” <i>Spiritual Practice:</i> Fasting from electronic media for a day	Discuss reading from <u>How Much is Enough?</u> Discuss spiritual practice	Fill out and discuss voluntary simplicity assessment
17	<u>Compassion</u> , pgs 87-137; <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Howard Thurman,” pgs 202-206 “Note to Participants for Week Seventeen” <i>Spiritual Practice:</i> Spending time in a natural setting	Discuss readings from <u>Compassion</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> Discuss spiritual practice	View and discuss “The Man Who Planted Trees”
18	<u>Half the Sky</u> , pgs xi-21, 61-92 “Note to Participants for Week Eighteen”	Guest speaker on global poverty (see p. 6 for details)	Discuss reading from <u>Half the Sky</u>
19	<u>Half the Sky</u> , pgs 93-130, 167-183 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Dom Helder Camara,” pgs 207-215 “Note to Participants for Week Nineteen”	View and discuss “Global Banquet: The Politics of Food”	Discuss readings from <u>Half the Sky</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>
20	<u>Half the Sky</u> , pgs 185-254 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty”	View and discuss “Dying to Live”	Discuss reading from <u>Half the Sky</u>
21	<u>Unexpected News</u> , pgs 11-48, 63-73 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Oscar Romero,” pgs 274-279 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty-One”	Discuss Difficult/Transforming Experiences	Discuss readings from <u>Unexpected News</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>
22	<u>Unexpected News</u> , pgs 89-116, 127-141, 150-161 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty-Two”	Discuss Ten Areas of Social Ministry	Discuss reading from <u>Unexpected News</u>
23	<u>The Powers That Be</u> , pgs 1-62 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Martin Niemoeller,” pgs 266-273 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty-Three”	Discuss readings from <u>The Powers That Be</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>	Discuss Discernment Exercise

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24	<u>The Powers That Be</u> , pgs 63-127 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “George Zabelka,” pgs 231-237 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty-Four”	Guest Speaker on Bread for the World (see p. 6 for details)	Discuss readings from <u>The Powers That Be</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>
25	<u>The Powers That Be</u> , pgs 128-200 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Dietrich Bonhoeffer,” pgs 261-265 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty-Five”	View “A Force More Powerful”	Discuss film, “A Force More Powerful,” and readings from <u>The Powers That Be</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> ”
26	<u>Doing Justice</u> , pgs ix-49 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty-Six”	Offering of Letters activity View Offering of Letters DVD	Discuss reading from <u>Doing Justice</u>
27	<u>Doing Justice</u> , pgs 50-103 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty-Seven”	View and discuss film "Holding Ground"	Discuss reading from <u>Doing Justice</u>
28	<u>Let Your Life Speak</u> , pgs 1-55 <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u> , “Jean Vanier,” pgs 55-59 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty-Eight”	Guest Speaker(s) on local ministry options (see p. 6)	Discuss readings from <u>Let Your Life Speak</u> and <u>Cloud of Witnesses</u>
29	<u>Let Your Life Speak</u> , pgs 56-109 “Note to Participants for Week Twenty-Nine” Discernment Exercise Part II	Discuss <u>Let Your Life Speak</u>	Discuss Discernment Exercise Part II View and discuss video "Dust"
30	“Note to Participants for Week Thirty”	Spread the word about JustFaith	Celebration

Guest Speakers

To help you line up guest speakers, we wanted to let you know what topics they would be expected to cover and perhaps where to look for speakers. Also keep in mind that other JustFaith groups in your area in past years may have good suggestions for speakers. If you need help connecting with facilitators from previous years, please let us know.

Week Five– Guest Speaker on Local Poverty

Invite a staff person from a local social service agency (preferably church-based) who works with low-income households to speak of her/his experience of working with the local poor and the struggles they face. In some cases, it might be appropriate for the staff person to bring with him/her a client or someone who has suffered the effects of poverty or homelessness and to provide an opportunity for that person to speak as well.

Week Eleven – Guest Speaker on Racism

Invite a guest speaker (or two) to help your group gain insight into how one's racial/ethnic identity can uniquely shape their experience in the world. Ideally, this speaker may provide insight into the experiences of racial/ethnic groups with whom your JustFaith group has little experience. The invited speaker could be someone who has some experience working on issues of racism, or, perhaps, two such speakers from different racial/ethnic backgrounds who could share the challenges associated with this kind of work.

As an alternative (or as an addition), you may consider inviting one or two people from your congregation or community who would feel comfortable sharing their day-to-day experiences of racism with the group. For names of potential speakers, contact your ecclesial church offices or local anti-racism agencies.

Week Fourteen– Guest Speaker on Simple Living

Invite one or two guests to speak of their experience of trying to live a simple life and what that has meant both practically and spiritually. Facilitators will want to invite people who have a reputation for living simple lives as a response to their faith, commitment to justice, and spiritual insight. Allow time for your group to ask the guest(s) questions. Specific areas to share could include:

- How did this person begin this journey? What were the motivating factors?
- Where did this person start? How did he/she add other components of simple living?
- What have been key sustaining factors? Where does this person get support, encouragement?
- How did she/he connect with other people with the same lifestyle goals?
- What have been the challenges? How did this person overcome these challenges?
- What has this meant to him/her spiritually? What are the spiritual insights gained from this practice?
- What will be this person's next steps on this journey of simple living?

Week 18 – Guest Speaker on Global Poverty

Invite someone in your area who has had international experience working among the poor to share his/her story. Be sure to ask them to include: information and history on the country they were involved with; the justice issues and struggles the people are facing; the possible solutions to these struggles that the speaker encountered; opportunities for engagement in the solutions by participants; and the signs of hope they saw during their time in the country.

If you are not aware of anyone who has such experience, here are some possible contacts:

- Migrant Ministry or Missions Office from your denomination
- Local refugee resettlement agency
- Local Witness for Peace group
- Local Fellowship of Reconciliation chapter or another local ecumenical peacemaking council or group
- Former Peace Corps or similar secular or religious volunteer program alumni

In addition, if the person you request to visit your group is linked with any resettled refugees, you might want to ask him/her to invite one of the refugees to come and share his/her story as well.

Week 24 – Guest Speaker from Bread for the World

Invite your Bread for the World regional organizer, local Bread for the World leader, or a member of Bread for the World to address your group about the work that Bread for the World is involved in and how you and your church can get involved.

Week 28 – Guest Speaker(s) on Local Ministry Options

Invite local representatives from two or three social service agencies to come and talk with the group about opportunities for engagement in the local community. Sixty minutes is allotted so you may have two or three speakers and give them each 30 or 20 minutes respectively.

Another option is to invite someone from your church who can speak to the social ministry opportunities in your faith community or your denomination. Be sure to let the speakers know that you are asking them to focus on opportunities for individual engagement and action as well as congregation-based activities.