



## JustFaith Catholic Getting Started Recruiting Toolkit

In partnership with



Catholic  
Campaign  
for Human  
Development



With additional support from: Catholic Charities USA

## Personal Invitation Discussion Guide

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As referenced in the Recruiting Best Practices Guide, personal invitations are the best way to recruit 8 to 15 group members. Personal invitations can be done by parishioners, local volunteers, parish and organization staff, deacons, and pastors. Use invitational language and ask potential participants to discern this call to community.

**Here are some key discussion points for a 30- to 45-minute discussion. Bolded items are those discussion points needed for a 10- to 15-minute discussion.**

1. Open with prayer that sets the tone for sharing.
2. Introductions
  - a. Describe your role within the parish, community, or organization as it relates to JustFaith.
  - b. Ask the potential participant what his or her current priorities are as it relates to his or her life and faith life.
3. Describe where you are in your spiritual journey.
  - a. If you have completed a JustFaith Ministries program: describe how the program impacted your life.
  - b. If you've not completed JustFaith but will be participating in this group: describe why you are participating.
4. Ask the potential participant one or two key questions:
  - a. What do you need at this point in your life to deepen your faith journey?
  - b. Are you willing to arrange your time to make your spiritual development a priority?
  - c. Describe the impact of JustFaith on other graduates using quotes from the Testimonies section of the website. This program has been very successful nationwide, being hosted by nearly 2,000 parishes, churches, and organizations. It has more than 30,000 graduates.
5. Describe the commitment and requirements of JustFaith and a schedule. All of the details can be found at [www.justfaith.org/newperspective](http://www.justfaith.org/newperspective).
6. Ask what additional information the potential participant needs to make a commitment. Promise to follow up with the additional information. Set a date when you will follow up to seek the commitment based on when the group will begin Session 1.
7. Leave the potential participant with the promotional flyer, commitment form, and date for an upcoming Information Session, if applicable.

## Information Session Outline

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The Information Session is time to share program details with a group of interested people. Information Sessions can be held after Mass times or during a weekday evening. They should last about an hour; honor the timeframe you share with those who attend.

### Preparation Tasks:

- ✓ Arrange for a meeting space.
- ✓ Advertise the Information Session at least two weeks in advance.
- ✓ Identify presenters and clarify responsibilities for the meeting. Some additional responsibilities may include:
  - Providing light refreshments
  - Ensuring the DVD player and television are available and work
  - Making copies of the commitment form, flyer, and information sheet.
- ✓ If possible, invite one or two program graduates to share their experience.

### Suggested outline:

- **Introductions/Prayer**
  - Welcome participants and begin with prayer.
  - Ask about participants' hopes for the Information Session.
- **Show the JustFaith Catholic promotional DVD** (approximately five minutes).
- **Present a general description of the JustFaith program.**
  - Hand out copies of the JustFaith flyer, information sheet, and commitment form. If the program was offered in your church/parish previously, have on hand a sample of the books and videos that were used.
- **Discuss the structure of the program.**
  - The program is comprised of four main phases, each with six sessions and an immersion experience.
  - Each session is two-and-a-half hours long and includes group dialogue and prayer.
  - An opening retreat and commissioning retreat are held in the first and last phases.
  - An optional but highly recommended three-week discernment phase (phase five) follows the four main phases.
- **Invite graduates to share their experiences, if possible** (3–5 minutes each).
- **Respond to questions and close the information session.**
  - Thank people for coming. Have a sign-up sheet available for those who are interested to provide their name, email, and phone number for follow-up.

## **JustFaith Catholic Information Sheet**

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*On the back page of the information sheet, feel free to include additional information, including one or two testimonies from local JustFaith graduates or from testimonies on the website.*

### **What is JustFaith?**

JustFaith is a process that connects our faith-filled longing for a meaningful life with the needs of our global brothers and sisters. Through prayer, readings, and dialogue, JustFaith uncovers the gospel call to compassion by exposing the scars poverty on our relationships and awakening us to a new perspective through the lens of our faith. Participants become a community through their shared journey and engagement at the margins. By allowing ourselves to be transformed by love, we transform the world toward God's vision of justice.

### **How is the JustFaith program structured?**

JustFaith Catholic groups are small communities of 8-15 people who share prayer, delve into spiritual readings, engage in powerful group discussion, and explore the challenge of following Jesus today. The program follows the inspiration of the tradition of Catholic social teaching, primarily the option with the poor.

JustFaith Catholic groups meet in four phases of six two-and-a-half-hour sessions. Each of these four phases closes with an immersion experience that allows participants to form relationships with those living on the margins of their community. Two retreats open and close the process. A fifth phase of three sessions allows time for discernment at the close of the program.

This program is flexible, but also involves a significant commitment. The Gospel urges us to shape our lives around what matters rather than try to "fit in" the call to community and compassion between activities.

### **Who do I contact for more information?**

[Fill in local contact person's name, phone number  
and/or email address.]

## Sample Bulletin Announcements and Email Blasts

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These examples can be used in bulletin announcements, email blasts, and any place you need three to four sentences to gain interest in JustFaith. We encourage you to use these announcements as way to create curiosity about the program, as opposed to articulating the full commitment in a short announcement—which can cause people to be overwhelmed by the message and not be open to the invitation.

### Examples:

*I have called you by name, you are mine* (Isaiah 43:1). What is God calling you to? Consider seeking your life's purpose through JustFaith, a rich spiritual journey focused on connecting compassion with the needs of the world. For more information, call \_\_\_\_\_.

Are you longing to reconnect with your faith and a small community? JustFaith is a program that uses books, videos, prayer, and dialogue about some of the most difficult topics of the day, face-to-face encounters with the poor, and an exploration of what the Catholic tradition says about addressing injustice in our world. For more information, call \_\_\_\_\_.

When was the last time you had an experience that was touched your soul? If you are looking to encounter your faith in a way that challenges you, changes you, and charges you to live as a Christian in today's world, JustFaith may be for you. For more information, call \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you find yourself wondering how to live your faith in today's complex world? Responding to the world's needs takes reflection, study, prayer, and community. All of these are offered in the JustFaith program. Consider joining a group. For more information, contact \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you find that your life is rapidly moving from one year to the next and you have little time to reflect on what it truly means to be a Catholic? Consider joining a JustFaith group that helps to answer this question through reflection, study, prayer, and community. For more information, contact \_\_\_\_\_.

Are you looking for ways to demonstrate our Catholic faith to your children? JustFaith is a program that includes intriguing reading, captivating videos, and discussions with other adults. It exposes the needs of the world's most vulnerable people and explores how you can personally connect. For more information, call \_\_\_\_\_.

## Sample Press Release for Diocesan or Religious Media

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### Seeking to live deeply with a true sense of purpose?

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[INSERT DATE]

For more information:

[Name]

[Phone Number]

[E-mail]

[Other Contact Info]

The [Diocese/Archdiocese/Parish Name] will offer a JustFaith group from [start date to end date of program]. The JustFaith program is a process that offers an opportunity for people of faith to experience a spiritual journey that leads to compassionate commitment. Offered in nearly 2,000 parishes, Catholic organizations, and communities across the country, the JustFaith program provides a lively and challenging format of engagement with and formation in the tradition of Catholic social teaching. JustFaith changes lives, inspires compassionate witness, and transforms the world through compassion.

[Insert a paragraph about the hosting organization/parish here, including location and a quote from a local leader.]

JustFaith Ministries provides programs that transform people and expand their commitment to social ministry. Through these life-changing opportunities, people of faith can study, explore, and experience Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable through a lively, challenging, multifaceted process in the context of a small faith community. JustFaith Ministries, in conjunction with its partners, offers introductory workshops, curriculum, resources, a website, and support services.

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## JustFaith Commitment Statement

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The commitment process and statement is an important step for all participants. Local coordinators have found that by completing this form and submitting a small portion of the financial investment (or by making other payment/scholarship arrangements), the participant is truly signifying his or her commitment.

In a small number of situations, participants have dropped out of the program after turning in his or her deposit and commitment form. The non-refundable deposit helps to cover the cost of the initial book order.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, commit to participating in the JustFaith process.

I understand that the program can be very rewarding by adding meaning to my faith life, deepening my relationship with God and growing my compassion for others.

I also understand that the JustFaith program involves the commitment to my fellow group members to make myself available for setting a group schedule, attending all sessions, reading assigned materials, attending two retreats, and participating in four Saturday immersion experiences.

I will be part of a supportive community and know that my presence is important to the integrity of the group. I agree to prepare for each of these sessions by doing the assigned reading and exercises.

I commit to being an active participant in all these activities to the best of my ability. I also commit to cultivating community within the group and to support other participants as I journey with my JustFaith colleagues.

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Signature

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Date

**Submit your signed Commitment Form  
and deposit to [person's name] by [date].**