



JustFaith (Ecumenical) Getting Started: Recruiting Toolkit

This document is designed for local leaders to help with recruiting efforts in parishes, churches, and communities. While materials in this document are copyrighted and JustFaith® is trademarked, this document may be copied and forwarded in its entirety without permission.

In partnership with



Personal Invitation

As referenced in the Program Recruiting Best Practice document, personal invitations are the best way to recruit the eight to fifteen people for your Just Faith group. Personal invitations can be done by parishioners, local volunteers, parish and organization staff, deacons, and pastors. Be sure to use invitational language as you ask potential participants to discern this call to journey together as a small community of faith.

Invite the individual to meet with you for about 30 to 45 minutes. Some key aspects of the discussion might be the following:

1. Open with a brief prayer.
 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 in terms of 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 have not completed JustFaith but will be participating in this group, describe why you are participating.
 4. Invite responses to the following 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 spiritual development a priority in your life?
 5. Describe the commitment and requirements of JustFaith and, if possible, have a schedule of when the group will meet. You might want to describe the impact of JustFaith on other graduates using quotes from graduate you know and from the JustFaith Ministries website. You also might share with the individual that the JustFaith program has been very successful nationwide and has been hosted by nearly 2,000 parishes, churches, or organizations. It has more than 30,000 graduates.
 6. Ask what additional information the potential participant needs to make a commitment. Provide as much information as you can and offer a date by when you will provide any additional information. Also, set a date when you will contact the person again to seek a commitment to participate.
 7. Leave the promotional flyer, commitment form, and date for an upcoming Information Session with the participant, if applicable.
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Information Session Outline

The Information Session is time to share program details with a group of interested people. These sessions can be held after a church service or as an evening event. They last about one hour.

Preparation Tasks:

- ✓ Arrange for a meeting space.
- ✓ Advertise the Information Session a minimum of 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 and Prayer**
 - Welcome participants and begin with prayer.
 - Ask participants to introduce themselves by name and to offer one thing they hope to get out of the Information Session.
- **Show the JustFaith 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 closing commissioning retreat are held in the first and last phases.
 - An optional but highly recommended discernment phase (phase five) follows the four main phases. This phase can be done in one day or in three two-hour sessions.
- **Invite graduates to briefly share their experience, if possible** (3–4 minutes each).
- **Respond to questions and close the information session.**
 - Thank people for coming. Have a sign-up sheet - name, email, and phone number - for those who are interested in participating in the JF group.

JustFaith Information Sheet

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 Just Faith Ministries website.

What is JustFaith?

JustFaith is a mind- and heart-opening journey that invites participants to encounter the Spirit of Jesus in our midst, especially in the lives of people who are poor and vulnerable.

By his words and witness, Jesus inaugurated the Reign of God, bringing to birth a new covenant with our Creator. This kingdom of justice and peace, breaking into our world, invites all of us into right-relationship with our God, with our neighbor, and with life.

Jesus embodied this message of forgiveness and healing, bringing the Good News of God's mercy and justice to the most vulnerable people— outcasts, strangers and poor people—who were longing for the restoration promised by the prophets. By walking with and visiting people on the margins of society, Jesus brought this hope-filled new perspective to the people of his time.

The JustFaith journey reflects the hopeful message of God's Reign. Deepening and broadening relationships is central to the JustFaith journey: the relationship of each participant to their own faith journey; relationship within a small community of faith; and relationship with those who are poor and vulnerable.

Through prayer, readings, films, and dialogue, the JustFaith journey provides a way of sharing present perspectives, finding new perspectives, and discerning how to respond to the call to discipleship in our blessed, broken, and hungry world.

How is the JustFaith program structured?

JustFaith has four phases of six two-and-a-half-hour sessions. Each phase concludes with an immersion experience that allows participants to engage with those living on the margins of their community. The program includes two retreats that open and close the process. In addition, there is an optional but highly recommended fifth phase that can be done in one day or in three two-hour sessions. This program is flexible, but also involves a significant commitment.

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

We encourage you to use the following announcements as way to create curiosity about and interest in the program. They are to be used as an invitation to join a small community of faith.

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 to address issues related to those who are poor and marginalized. The program offers personal encounters, retreats, and a faith-focused exploration of some of today's most difficult issues. For more information, call _____.

When was the last time you had an experience that touched your soul? If you are looking to encounter your faith in a way that challenges you, changes you, and charges you to live more fully 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 live your faith? 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 your faith to your children and others? 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 Religious Media

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 [name of your church/parish or organization] will offer a JustFaith group from [start date to end date of program]. Offered in nearly 2,000 parishes, organizations, and communities across the country, the JustFaith program provides a lively and challenging format of engagement and formation. JustFaith changes lives, inspires compassionate witness, and helps heal our blessed and broken world.

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

JustFaith is a program of JustFaith Ministries, a small not for profit that provides programs that transform people and expand their commitment to social ministry. Through the Just Faith Ministries programs, people of faith can study, explore, and experience Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable through lively, challenging, and multifaceted processes and do so in the context of a small community of faith. JustFaith Ministries, in conjunction with its partners, offers introductory workshops, resources, a website, and program support.

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JustFaith Commitment Statement

The commitment process and statement is an important step for all participants. Local coordinators have found that by completing this form - and even submitting a deposit up front for books, if possible - the participant is truly signifying his or her commitment to be part of the Just Faith group.

In a small number of situations, participants have dropped out of the Just Faith program after turning in his or her commitment form and deposit. Coordinators can decide if the deposit is non-refundable based on whether or not the initial book order has been submitted.

I, _____, commit to participating in the JustFaith process.

I understand that the program can deepen my faith life and increase my capacity for compassion for those who are poor and marginalized.

I also understand that the JustFaith program involves my commitment to the group – a commitment to attending all sessions, reading assigned materials, attending two retreats, and participating in four Saturday immersion experiences.

I understand that my presence is important to the integrity of the group. I agree to prepare for each session.

I commit to being an active participant in all of the JustFaith activities to the best of my ability. I commit to help cultivate community within the group and to support other participants as we journey together.

Signature

Date

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