



What One Person Can Do April 19, 2022

Dear Member of the JustFaith Network,

We are grateful that you are a part of our JustFaith community. Whether you are a graduate of one of our programs or you are just getting to know us, we hope this offering will help sustain you spiritually and/or equip you to work for justice.

Our monthly small group resource is sent on the third Tuesday of each month; you can access an archive of past resources by logging into your JustFaith account. You can invite your friends, family, Sunday School class, or current/past JFM small group to join you in-person or via video conferencing. If you are new to video conferencing, Zoom tutorials are available on our YouTube page – [Click here to access.](#)

While we hope that these resources will inspire and nourish your community, for a more robust experience, consider one of our longer programs. Click [here](#) for more information. This week's resource speaks to themes found in our Eco-justice programs, "Sacred Land," "Sacred Air," and "Sacred Water," which you will find [here](#).

This week's small group experience relies on participants having watched a video and read a short article; click 1) [here](#) and 2) [here](#). Please share the links in advance so that all participants can come prepared to discuss; you can find the full links in the "Reflection" section that follows.

Last but not least, JustFaith Ministries is a nonprofit organization. All of our work is a collaboration with people like you. When you donate, your gift helps us sustain and equip individuals committed to making the world better. [Click here to help out.](#)

Also, please feel free to forward this resource to friends and family! In fact, we urge you to do so. We want this resource to reach as many people as possible.

Thanks for all you do in the name of love and justice,
The JustFaith Ministries Staff



Welcome and Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

When everyone has dialed in, begin your time together with these or similar words:

Welcome, friends! It's so good to be with all of you. Today we'll begin with an opening prayer and spend a few minutes checking in with each other. Then we'll have some conversation about the video and article, before closing in prayer. This a time to care for one another and to be inspired to grow and act.

Let's take a few seconds of silence to pause, to listen to our breathing, and to be present in this space.

Pause for 30 seconds before beginning the opening prayer

A Prayer for Courage

Reader One: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew: "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20-21).

Reader Two: From the prayerbook, *Prayer Without Borders* (p. 7):

**To have hope
Is to believe that history continues open
To the dream of God and to human creativity.**

**To have hope
Is to continue affirming
That it is possible to dream a different world,
Without hunger, without injustice,
Without discrimination.**

**To have hope
Is to be a courier of God
And courier of men and women of good will,
Tearing down walls, destroying borders,
Building bridges.**

**To have hope
Is to believe in the revolutionary potential of faith,
Is to leave the door open so that
The Spirit can enter and make all things anew.**



To have hope
Is to believe that life wins over death.

To have hope
Is to begin again as many times as necessary.

To have hope
Is to believe that hope is not
The last thing that dies.

To have hope
Is to believe that hope cannot die,
That hope no longer dies.

To have hope
Is to live.

Amen.

Check-In Time (10 minutes or so)

Ask these open-ended questions. If you are by yourself, journal about them.

Note: If you are with a group, these questions have the potential to take up a lot of time. Some weeks may require more check-in time than others, depending on the needs of the group. To provide a shorter yet meaningful check-in time, choose ONE of the questions below, and ask participants to share a ONE sentence response.

- **Before we begin our reflection, let's take a few minutes to check in. How is everyone feeling?** (It will be a bit more difficult via phone to know if someone is being talked over or is trying to get a word in.... Be sure everyone has a chance to speak).
- **What is something you're struggling with this week?**
- **Where have you seen a sign of hope this week?**

Other optional questions include: Where have you experienced a "thin place" in the last week? Where have you seen beauty this week? What is one new behavior you'd like to continue doing when the virus has passed us by?

Reflection (25 minutes or so)

Participants should have watched the video and read the article referred to below:

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjKi0ww4XHw> (Note: if it's hard for you to hear, click on the close captioning button (cc) at the bottom of the YouTube screen.)

Article: <https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipients/sharon-lavigne/#recipient-bio>

Discussion questions

1. This is the story of an ordinary human being doing something extraordinary. What did you find most compelling about Sharon Lavigne's story?
2. The title of this session, "What One Person Can Do," is a bit of a misnomer; it should have been "What One Person Can Start." How does this small group story relate to or shed light on your own current commitments?
3. Lavigne uses clear, direct language when describing the impact of the industry that surrounds her, e.g. "Formosa is death to us." Thinking again of your own commitments, how might you apply her plain-spokenness? Give some examples.
4. Is there a characteristic of Sharon Lavigne's that you would like to cultivate in yourself?

Announcements (5-10 minutes)

- This resource is a small sample of the kinds of conversations had in our 8-session programs. For a more intensive experience related to matters of care for creation, see our Eco-justice programs; click [here](#).
- On Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. ET, JustFaith Ministries' "Acting for Justice" Series will continue with Avery Davis Lamb from Creation Justice Ministries. Avery will address the topic, "Weathering the Storm; Faithful Climate Resilience." For more information or to register, click [here](#).
- Let participants know that the materials for this gathering were free, put together by the JustFaith Ministries staff to equip more people for the work of peace and justice. To support the creation of more resources and programs, participants are encouraged to donate to JustFaith Ministries; click [here](#).



- Are there any opportunities for action or advocacy happening in your community this week? Invite participants to share ways to support the work of local groups advocating for peace, working for justice or caring for the environment.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Then say: **Before we join in the closing prayer, let us pause to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is as close as our very breath.**

Pause for 30 seconds. Then share the reflection below.

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

Then, in these words, invite any participants who have a prayer, a concern, or a request to briefly share it:

We are disciples on a journey.

We are the body of Christ, broken for the world.

We hold one another as we carry the concerns of our neighbors.

If you feel moved, please share your prayer aloud.

Pause



We pray also for the members of the JustFaith community across the country. Unite us through the power of your Holy Spirit, that together we might participate with you in the building of your Kingdom, in order to create a more just and peaceful world.

Amen.