

JustFAITH


Getting Started: Discernment Meeting Outline 2011-12

In partnership with:



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With additional
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JustFaith Ministries works in cooperation with the partner organizations listed on this page and receives over half of its funding in the form of charitable contributions from program graduates.

Discernment Meeting Outline

Why do we have these meetings with potential participants?

- To begin to build a relationship with each potential participant
- To describe the process of JustFaith in detail
- To make the expectations of JustFaith clear
- To determine whether or not JustFaith is appropriate for a potential participant
- To secure a commitment for full participation in the program

How do I set up these meetings?

- Call potential participants and ask for a convenient time to meet. Some JustFaith co-facilitators have found that inviting a potential participant to their home or to offer to go to the participant's home has worked well to build the personal relationships that are so important to the JustFaith program.

What should the discernment meeting consist of?

- **Beginning: Build the Relationship:** Open with a brief prayer asking the Spirit to guide the conversation and help with the discernment. Determine why the person is interested in JustFaith and learn something about this person (family, work, previous church/parish involvement, previous work in justice issues, etc.). Assess participant readiness and interest.
- **Middle: The Facts about JustFaith:** Share with the potential participant the requirements of JustFaith and a schedule (focus on: weekly meetings, retreats, immersion experiences, costs, etc.).
- **End: Ask for a Commitment:** Assuming that the potential participant is a good match for JustFaith, ask for a commitment to participate fully in the program. Use the commitment form if desired.

What if the potential participant is not a good fit?

- Handle the situation directly. Do not attempt to sidestep the issue or deceive the person involved.
- Explain why JustFaith might not be a good fit (e.g., too many scheduling conflicts, a recent significant loss, looking for a different kind of group, etc.).
- If there are other groups that more directly meet the person's interests, refer the person to that group and follow up with the group's coordinator.
- If you think the person might be ready to do JustFaith in a subsequent year (e.g., when they have fewer conflicts), suggest that option.
- If you are not sure about the appropriateness of a particular person, do not ask for a firm commitment. Ask the person if you can call in a couple of days to talk more about JustFaith. Encourage the person to reflect on the expectations of the program. During the phone call, listen to his/her perspective and then either invite him/her to join or explain why he/she might not want to do JustFaith based on your discussion.

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