

# Just FAITH Justice WALKING

A Discipleship Journey with High School Students

## 15 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT J-WALKING (JW)

**Do you really care? What do you care deeply about? Who do you care for?**

*How we live these questions out will reveal the focus and depth of our faith. JW begins with these questions.*

**How long is the process?**

*J-Walking requires a minimum of 3 months if groups decide to meet weekly. Otherwise the process can be extended to cover a 6 month period and groups meet twice monthly. Every other J-Walking meeting takes place at a social service agency.*

**How long are the sessions?**

*There are 12 sessions and each session lasts 2 hours. JW also includes one overnight and one (day-long) retreat, as well as a weekend immersion pilgrimage. The total time commitment, over the course of 3-6 months, is around 50 hours.*

**Can JW be adjusted for tight schedules and school calendars?**

*JW coordinators are empowered to adapt the process to local parish, school or diocesan contexts. JustFaith Ministries' staff offers guidance throughout the process.*

**Who is the ideal J-Walker?**

*This is NOT for everyone! JW forms small community with older teens (11-12<sup>th</sup> graders) and a few committed adults. J-Walkers are personally invited or nominate themselves for the process. These are people who are asking deep questions, concerned about social realities, and looking to make Gospel choices with their lives.*

**What is a "good" size for a JW group?**

*JW is an intensive spiritual process, co-facilitated by younger and older participants. The ideal JW group has between 7-12 people, with at least 5 young people, and no fewer than 2 adults.*

**What about mature, younger teens?**

*Motivated young people, who have made a connection with realities of poverty or injustice through study, service or ministry experiences, are excellent JW candidates. It can be appropriate to invite one or two highly-interested younger teens to join a more senior group.*

**How much will it cost?**

*An annual payment of \$200 gives your parish or school access to the JusticeWalking comprehensive materials and consultation. All materials are transmitted as secure web links.*

**What about additional resources?**

*J-Walkers read 2 books that combined cost around \$20 per person. They will each also use a J-Walker Journal, costing \$7.00 per journal. Each group will need one DVD, one resource book and one music CD. Combined, these should cost around \$60. J-Walkers should contribute toward these costs.*

**What does it take to be a JW coordinator?**

*JW coordinators should be adults (21 or over) with a passion for justice and profound respect for young people. They should also be people who are trying to live with integrity and deepen their commitment to the Gospel vision of peace with justice.*

**How does JW fit with youth ministry or Confirmation?**

*This process is NOT intended to replace, but rather to enhance existing youth formation initiatives. JW is a specialized, small-group conversion process for interested youth and adults, NOT a large-group (or classroom) education or formation program.*

**What about credits and service hours?**

*JW is an elective process and no one should be required to participate. Schools could offer JW as an elective or an after-school activity. JW focuses on personal transformation rather than self-promotion and participants are dissuaded from accumulating merits.*

**What about liability and safety issues?**

*All JW adults are expected to comply with the liability trainings and protocols of their home dioceses.*

**Does JW connect with the national church and reflect Catholic teachings?**

*JustFaith Ministries works in partnership with Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services. JW materials are laced with Catholic social wisdom and the process is steeped in "engaged" Catholic spirituality.*

**How do we find the time when our lives are already so busy?**

*Reread the first set of questions and listen to the words of Jesus (Mark 8:34-37). We make time for the things we believe in and the people we care about.*

**How can I find out more about JW?**

*Check out: [www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org) or contact Noelle Tennis Gulden at 502-429-0865 [justicewalking@justfaith.org](mailto:justicewalking@justfaith.org)*



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## ***Do you care? How deeply do you care? Who do you care for?***

*Imagine what might happen if every Catholic parish or diocese across this nation were to raise-up a handful of eager teenage disciples anchored in the social teachings of our faith, hungry for Good News and newness of life, and immersed in the spirituality of compassionate justice!*

This is the dream of **JustFaith Ministries** and the vision behind **Justice Walking**, or *J-Walking*, an unconventional, 3-6 month journey into “*engaged spirituality*” with older teenagers (16-18 years). True to its name, and reflecting the hallmarks of JustFaith Ministries, this is a counter-cultural and demanding small-group conversion process (7-12 people). J-Walkers commit to twelve weekly or bi-weekly sessions, as well as two retreat days, and a weekend justice pilgrimage. Each group establishes a relationship with a local social service agency for the duration of the process, and one meeting each month takes place (on-site) at the agency. The process also includes one public dialogue where J-Walkers offer creative presentations to family members, peers and parishioners.

- ◆ *When have your Gospel commitments led you to walk in a different direction?*
- ◆ *If someone observed the way you live, would they recognize a follower of Jesus?*
- ◆ *When you look at yourself through the mirror of your peers, do you see a disciple?*
- ◆ *What kinds of “unlikely relationships” mark us as disciples of Jesus?*
- ◆ *How does God’s justice inspire you to respond to the global crises of our times?*

These are some of the hard questions young J-Walkers wrestle with when they gather to pray, dialogue, and build relationships with one another with others they meet along the journey. Like JustFaith, the J-Walking process is challenging and is not for everyone. These are the reflections of Evan Fowler, a young J-Walker from Louisville, Kentucky:

*J-walking has helped me to open my ears to the sounds that, until recently, I didn’t realize I wasn’t hearing. Through J-walking I have learned about other people in situations that I can barely wrap my mind around: children serving as soldiers, living in the streets, and left as orphans by AIDS or genocide; women being enslaved and forced to practice prostitution; and men struggling through drug and alcohol addiction. My eyes were opened to the fact that my life choices do not affect only me, but also every living thing on this planet. The foods I eat, the stores I buy things from, the trash I throw away, and the people I associate myself with all have a ripple effect, which could touch the life of a boy in India who makes my shoes or a tree in Brazil that was cut down so that I could buy a piece of furniture made with exotic wood.*

J-Walking is an act of faith in the Holy Spirit that is already active in the lives of our young people. God is surely calling young disciples to embrace Good News in these times, and it will take a supportive community to walk with them. The critical question remains: ***Who will J-Walk with them?*** If you would like to know more about JusticeWalking, visit the JustFaith website [www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org), or contact Noelle Tennis Gulden: (502) 429-0865 or [justicewalking@justfaith.org](mailto:justicewalking@justfaith.org).

