



This Crucial Moment

"LAND JUSTICE FUTURES" COURSE
DISCUSSION GUIDE #1 FOR SESSION #1:
LAND, REGENERATION, & REPAIR

DISCUSSION GUIDE #1

Opening Prayer

Let us take a moment to give gratitude to the land on which we sit. Let us give thanks for the gifts of the land, and for the original Indigenous stewards who have tended this land since time immemorial. Give time to pause here.

Let us now name aloud the Native Nation(s) on whose land each of us now sit. (If anyone does not know the original Native Nations who belong to this land, acknowledge that, and commit to learning more by the next discussion at www.native-land.ca.)

After a few moments of quiet reflection, say together:

God of all Creation and God of the oppressed, enliven our hearts this Lenten Season with a true desire for repentance and renewal. Guide our discussion today, that we might be open to seeing new ways of restoring our relationships with the earth and with her past, present, and future stewards. We ask this through Jesus, who heals and restores and renews.

*Feel free to follow this discussion guide as written or to use these suggestions in whatever manner is helpful to facilitating reflection and dialogue in your group.



Review of Session

As Catholic sisters consider the future of our land and property, we have the opportunity to embrace creative, collaborative, and courageous options that allow us to invest in economically just relationships with regenerative stewards of the land. This opening session illustrated why the true land justice we desire will not only protect and restore ecosystems, but also will secure land access to those most oppressed by our colonial history and current economic system.

Due to the legacy of colonization and generational systemic racism, those whose values most often align with those of Catholic sisters, in terms of caring for the land, often have the least access to land. Our society operates within a dominant worldview of land as a commodity to be sold to the highest bidder: 98% of land in the U.S. today is owned by white people.

Through the decisions we make about our land and the relationships we build with regenerative stewards, Catholic sisters can help to shift this paradigm, shining a light on financially sustainable models that center relationships with the land and those who best know how to care for it. Such models can repair generations of racial harm while loving the earth into health again.

"At the end of the day, this is about transforming a harmful economic paradigm into wholeness and relationship..."

Sisters have already been doing that work for a long time."



Reflection (15 minutes)

Consider quietly journaling for 5 minutes with the following prompts, then sharing with a partner or the whole group for another 10 minutes.

- What emotions/feelings did this workshop bring up in me?
- Guilt? Grief? Defensiveness? Skepticism?
- Hope? Excitement? Attraction? Possibility? Others?
- Where and how in my body do these emotions present themselves?
- If there's discomfort or resistance, spend some time exploring it. What needs might be present that this feeling is trying to care for?
- What might be "blocks" keeping me from imagining that such a transformation of land is possible in my community?
- Where am I being called to go deeper?

Discussion Prompts (30 minutes)

- What new information did you learn or perspectives did you gain from this session?
- Does the idea that Catholic sisters can play a role in land justice—restoring ecosystems while repairing racial harm—resonate with you?
- What was your reaction to the brief history presented on land theft and dispossession of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) in this country?
- Does the example of the relationship built between the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Shinnecock Farmers spark any ideas for your own community's situation?
- What questions are you still sitting with? What questions are arising in you?

*"When we talk about **land justice**, we are talking about ways to protect land and restore ecosystems, while securing affordable access, tenure, and equity to regenerative stewards — especially those from whom land has been stolen, denied, or compromised."*



“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach...”
- Isaiah 58:12

Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

As Pope Francis pointed out in *Laudato Si'*, there exists today a great need for healing in our relationships with God, our neighbors, and the Earth herself. Let us take a few moments of quiet to listen to how God might be calling our communities in this kairos moment.

Bring to mind a fundamental excerpt of your community's constitution or commitments—your charism, the text of your vow of poverty, a list of critical social or environmental concerns, or something else. Let us take another moment to meditate on this text, and ask ourselves how our community's values and commitments connect to what we have discussed this evening.

Recommended Resources for Further Study

- [Landback Imagination Brief](#) (click [here](#) for a print-friendly version)
- [“Indigenous Farmers Turn to Kelp To Restore Waters and Reclaim Cultural Practices”](#)

To learn more about this work, please visit www.nunsandnones.org/land or contact land@nunsandnones.org.

Just Checking In!

Who else from your congregation/community should be a part of this series? Consider inviting them to register for the remaining sessions and to join your discussion group.
