

# Journal: Week two

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## Objectives

- To continue the practice of reflective journaling.
- To reflect on the assigned reading for the week.
- To prepare for our shared engagement this week.

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## Materials

For this exercise you'll need your journal, the Parker Palmer book and reading guide, the Maria Harris book, and the Jacobson *Book of Faith* curriculum piece.

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## Procedures

1. Decide whether you will work on this exercise in three segments, or all at once. Make sure that you set aside appropriate amounts of time based on your decision (an hour per segment would be appropriate).
2. Look over the Parker Palmer reading guide: what questions can you answer quickly without looking at the book? mark those on the guide, and then choose a question for which you do NOT have an immediate answer and reflect upon it in your journal. Write that question in your journal. Was the reading unclear on that question? Maybe you disagree with Palmer, or want to take issue with him on an idea. Spend some time reflecting in writing on the unanswered question you identified. If you could answer all of the questions on the reading guide, identify a quotation from the book that you either really like — or really disagree with — and explain why.
3. On another page of your journal, choose a quotation from the Maria Harris reading that you really like — or really disagree with — and explain why. If you have time, explore to what extent her description of *kerygma* is descriptive of your teaching congregation (or other site).
4. Finally, on yet another page of your journal, reflect on what the “Book of Faith” curriculum piece suggests is meant by having a text “shine forth Christ.” Is this a way of reading texts that is familiar to you? Does it have resonance for you within teaching congregation (or other setting) or not?