

JBC LIFE

Code of Living

A Shared Philosophy
for Everyday Life

One Village · Many Paths · One Humanity

Humanity · Life · Nature · Freedom

A philosophy to question, learn and practice together

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Contents

Opening	3
To the Reader	4
Part 1 · Where We Stand	5-7
Part 2 · The 11 Principles	8-18
Part 3 · Shared Wisdom	19-20
Part 4 · The Freedom Charter	21-22
Part 5 · From Philosophy to Reality	23-26
Part 6 · Practice Today	27-28
Closing	29
Edition, Sources and Sharing	30

How to Read

Read from the beginning or turn to a principle you need today. The closing questions are invitations, not obligations. Use the contents and PDF bookmarks to move between chapters.

Opening

From Belief to Living

Better Life, Together.

We were born in different places and learned to understand the world in different ways. Some believe in God, some reflect on the order of nature, and some are still looking for answers. We do not have to erase these differences before we can live together.

JBC LIFE is not a new religion. It does not require faith in a particular god, scripture or leader. It is a philosophy of living and a community project that brings the good values humanity has learned through religion, philosophy, science, nature and civilization into daily life.

This book asks how we shall live, rather than what we believe. It seeks answers in the words we speak today, the way we treat a living being, and the responsibilities we share, rather than in grand declarations of certainty.

Reflection and Practice

Questions may remain when you close this book. Keep one sentence in mind that you can put into practice today.

To the Reader

A Code to Read Freely

You may question this book, too.

The word 'code' means a collection of shared commitments for living together. This is not a replacement for national law or a declaration of legal authority. Nor is it a contract requiring belief, donations, shared property or obedience.

This first edition draws on JBC LIFE's public philosophy, 11 principles and Freedom Charter. Explanations, daily questions and suggested community practices are editorial guidance for reflection. They do not imply that a community has already agreed to or formally adopted these procedures.

You may criticize any sentence you disagree with. No one may use this book to take the place of another person's conscience or remove their freedom to join or leave. Read, share and discuss, while putting human dignity and actual lives before the words on a page.

Reflection and Practice

When reading together, each person can choose one sentence they agree with and one they question. Make room for disagreement without disadvantage or penalty.

Part 1 · Where We Stand

A Declaration of Dignity

God is within me.

God is within you.

Therefore, neither of us can be the master of the other. A person is not someone to own or dominate because of differences in wealth, position, knowledge or faith.

Here, 'God' does not impose the god of a particular religion. It symbolizes human dignity, conscience, love, inner possibility, and an open question about existence beyond the limits of current human understanding.

People who believe in God, understand God differently or do not believe in God can all take part. Respect for my own dignity brings a responsibility to respect yours. My freedom cannot become a freedom to possess another person.

Reflection and Practice

Before asking something of someone, ask yourself: 'Does this person actually have the freedom to say no?'

Part 1 · Where We Stand

Living as Part of Nature

Humanity is not the center of everything.

Nature existed before humanity. The universe is vastly greater than us. We are not the owners of nature, but beings who live within it for a time. We respect the greater order of nature.

Life, consciousness, death, time, existence and the universe: questions remain that we do not fully understand, including possibilities beyond what we currently perceive as reality. We do not assume that humanity knows everything.

Respecting nature goes beyond admiring beautiful landscapes. It means considering our use of water and energy, the things we discard, and the traces we leave in other beings' habitats. We try not to pass the cost of today's convenience to someone in the future.

Reflection and Practice

Consider the beginning and end of one object you used today. Where did it come from, and where will it go when its usefulness ends?

Part 1 · Where We Stand

Respect Without Blind Faith

We do not know yet.

We do not dismiss what we fail to understand. But we do not declare a claim true simply because it cannot be explained. Respect is not a demand to stop asking questions.

We observe, question, experience, test and explore. Personal experience deserves a hearing, but a claim that applies to everyone needs appropriate evidence. Recognizing that we were mistaken is part of learning.

Science asks, 'How does it work?' Philosophy asks, 'What does it mean?' Spirituality asks, 'What lies beyond myself?' These questions can coexist. We respect evidence and verification when judging facts, and remain humble before what we do not know.

Reflection and Practice

When a claim moves you, write down three things: what is established, how you interpret it, and what remains unknown.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

01 Know Yourself

Reflection is not a punishment.
It is a more honest meeting with yourself.

Understand yourself

Notice what you want, what you fear and the choices you repeat. Do not accept other people's judgments as the whole of who you are.

Question yourself

Even when you feel certain, ask why. You can revise your thinking as you learn, rather than hold on to a mistake to save face.

Care for your limits

Recognize when you are tired or do not know. Asking for help does not diminish your dignity. Do not turn self-reflection into self-hatred.

Reflection and Practice

At the end of the day, ask: What feelings moved me today? What could I choose a little differently tomorrow?

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

02 Respect Every Human

Dignity is not a reward for achievement.

Recognize dignity without conditions

Respect everyone's basic dignity regardless of wealth, nationality, occupation, religion, gender or social position. Differences in roles must not become a ranking of human worth.

Do not demean difference

You can oppose an idea without humiliating or silencing the person who holds it. When criticizing harmful conduct, be specific about facts and responsibility.

Examine everyday power

If you know more, have worked longer or hold more resources, consider how your words may create pressure. Leave room for explanation and refusal.

Reflection and Practice

Think of someone who may have found it hard to respond to you today. In your next conversation, listen to their explanation first.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

03 Love Others

Love does not take ownership of another life.

Widen your circle of care

Look beyond your family to neighbors and people in need. Do not reserve kindness for those close to you or take unseen work for granted.

Ask what the other person wants

The help you wish to give may differ from the help someone needs. Good intentions do not entitle you to override their choices or privacy.

Hold forgiveness and safety together

You may leave open the possibility of dialogue, but must not force anyone to endure harm or restore a relationship. Love does not justify violence or control.

Reflection and Practice

Before deciding what to do for someone, ask, 'What kind of help do you need now?' Listen without trying to change their answer.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

04 Respect All Life

JBC LIFE chooses life.

Reject unnecessary killing

Human life is not the only life that matters. Animals, plants, countless living beings and ecosystems are connected. We reject intentional and unnecessary killing.

Reject cruelty and unnecessary suffering

Being more powerful does not give humanity the right to determine the value of every other living being. Do not cause suffering for amusement or convenience.

Seek alternatives that preserve life

Where a reasonable alternative exists, choose a solution that preserves life. Even when harm cannot be avoided, seek to minimize suffering and ecological damage.

Reflection and Practice

Before acting, ask: 'Is there another way to solve this without harming this life?' Compare the alternatives and seek the least harmful option.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

05 Reduce Suffering

If you can help, do not turn away from suffering.

Begin by noticing

Attend both to requests for help and to situations where speaking is difficult. Do not make people in need into spectacles or instruments of publicity for the community.

Make help concrete

You do not have to solve every problem alone. Distinguish what you can do from what needs professional support, and help people find the connections they need.

Make care sustainable

Those who help must also be able to rest and receive support. A system demanding endless self-sacrifice is unlikely to sustain care. Examine the burden together.

Reflection and Practice

Offer specific possibilities such as time, transport, a meal or information. Do not make promises you cannot keep.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

06 Share

What you can spare may become
a new opportunity for someone else.

Respect personal ownership

JBC LIFE does not reject personal ownership. Do not devalue someone's beliefs or worth because they have not donated or shared property.

Share voluntarily

Sharing includes time, knowledge, tools and experience, not only money. Take care that gratitude or indebtedness does not pressure a recipient into unwanted obedience.

Clarify the terms of sharing

Discuss whether something is a loan, a gift or jointly owned. Clarify use, return and maintenance so that goodwill does not become a source of conflict.

Reflection and Practice

Name one thing you can share and one you cannot readily share. Be honest about your boundaries while choosing a form of sharing that is possible for you.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

07 Create Value

Good work leaves something useful for people and the world.

Respect honest work

Value labor, entrepreneurship, technology, agriculture, science, art, research and creativity. Recognize not only visible achievements but also the care and maintenance that sustain daily life.

Be accountable for the process

A good outcome does not excuse deception or exploitation. Acknowledge other people's contributions and explain agreed terms and responsibilities honestly.

Leave room to learn from failure

A failed attempt does not make a person a failure. Do not hide losses or mistakes. Examine their causes and share what can help the next attempt.

Reflection and Practice

Write one sentence about whom your work helps and how. Also consider whether its process passes an unfair burden to someone else.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

08 Never Stop Learning

Questions open the door to learning.

Do not rank who may teach or learn

Children can teach adults, and adults can learn from children. Age, position and qualifications do not determine a question's worth in advance.

Do not forbid questioning itself

No idea is exempt from questions, including JBC LIFE and this book. Do not shame people for saying that they do not know.

Consider evidence and experience

When hearing a claim, examine its sources and how it can be tested. Share experiences without imposing one experience on everyone. Update what you know when new evidence appears.

Reflection and Practice

Learn something from a person of a different generation or background. Before judging their view, listen to how they came to it.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

09 Live with Nature

We are one generation borrowing from nature.

Remember our connections

Food, water, air, soil and the lives of other beings sustain us. Do not treat nature as an inexhaustible storehouse.

Choose to waste less

Try to use things longer and consume what you need. Recognize that people have different options, and do not shift burdens onto those in difficult circumstances.

Leave room for the next generation

Consider lasting effects as well as immediate convenience. Discuss how development and changes in daily life affect neighboring people and ecosystems.

Reflection and Practice

Discard one less thing and keep one thing in use longer this week. Do not turn your small practice into a measure of other people's worth.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

10 Freedom of Mind

The freedom to believe and the freedom not to believe belong together.

Protect the space of conscience

No one must profess a particular belief or join a ritual to belong. Respect the freedom to change one's mind or withhold judgment.

Make room for different views

Do not immediately call disagreement with the majority a betrayal. Distinguish criticism from insult and do not penalize people for asking questions.

Respect privacy and inner life

Closeness and community participation do not require the disclosure of every personal detail. Do not spread private stories learned in conversation or counseling against the person's wishes.

Reflection and Practice

When you hear a view you disagree with, first check your understanding of what matters to that person before offering a rebuttal.

Part 2 · The 11 Principles

11 Prosper Together

Your success should not require another person's failure.

Recognize effort and success

We do not seek a society where everyone is equally poor. We recognize individual effort, creativity and achievement, and respect opportunities to grow.

Let success widen opportunity

Consider how your achievements can create opportunities for others to learn, work and try something new. Remember the contributions of collaborators and the community.

Preserve dignity in competition

Winning does not justify deception or destroying another person's standing as a human being. We seek a society where those who fall behind can learn and begin again.

Reflection and Practice

Recall the people and conditions that helped your recent success. Find one way to turn that support into an opportunity for someone else.

Part 3 · Shared Wisdom

Many Paths, Shared Values

Many paths. Shared wisdom.

JBC LIFE does not declare one religion true or superior to another. Nor does it try to merge different traditions into a single doctrine. We respect and learn wisdom that helps people and communities.

From Buddhism, we learn compassion, mindfulness, self-reflection and non-harm; from Christianity, love, forgiveness, service and care for the vulnerable; from Islam, charity, discipline, responsibility and community. Judaism invites reflection on learning, questioning and discussion, family and responsibility.

Hindu traditions offer inner discovery, respect for life and responsibility for actions; Sikhism, equality, honest work, service and sharing; Taoism, harmony, nature, balance and simplicity. These are starting points for reflection, not exhaustive summaries that erase diversity within each tradition.

Reflection and Practice

When encountering an unfamiliar tradition, listen to people who live within it before judging it.

Part 3 · Shared Wisdom

Learning Without Erasing Difference

We do not have to become alike
to respect one another.

Confucian traditions invite reflection on family, respect, education and social responsibility; Jainism on nonviolence, respect for life and self-restraint; Shinto on nature, gratitude, community and respect for place. The Bahá'í Faith offers reflection on human unity, peace, education and equality.

Indigenous and nature-centered traditions remind us that humans are part of nature, not its masters. Humanism and secular ethics highlight reason, science, human rights, freedom and critical thinking. These values are opportunities for shared learning, not the exclusive possessions of any tradition.

Tradition alone does not justify every practice. Any teaching or custom that harms life, freedom or dignity may be questioned and criticized. Such criticism must be distinguished from contempt for an entire tradition or the people within it.

Reflection and Practice

Turn one value learned from another tradition into an action today. Look for less suffering and more respect in practice, rather than a declaration of belief.

Part 4 · The Freedom Charter

No Worship of Leaders. No Coercion.

Freedom Charter 1-4

1. No leader shall be worshipped.

A leader's experience and work may be respected, but their words do not become truths beyond criticism.

2. No belief shall be forced.

Agreement with beliefs or rituals is not a condition of participation. Respect disbelief, uncertainty and changes of mind.

3. No property shall be surrendered by coercion.

The size of a contribution does not determine human worth or the legitimacy of a voice. People must be able to decline financial demands.

4. Everyone has the freedom to join.

Welcome those who share the philosophy. If a particular activity requires conditions, explain them and their reasons clearly.

Reflection and Practice

When someone says you must do something for the community, check whether the freedom to refuse and other options are actually available.

Part 4 · The Freedom Charter

Free to Leave, Question and Seek Accountability

Freedom Charter 5-8

5. Everyone has the freedom to leave.

Do not label people who leave as traitors or pressure them to stay through public shame or threats to their relationships.

6. Question everything, including JBC LIFE.

This book and community decisions are no exception. Questions deserve explanations, not threats.

7. Evidence matters.

The certainty of a majority or the claim of an authority does not establish a fact. Correct errors when they come to light.

8. Power must always be accountable.

An entrusted role is not private property. Those who hold power must explain decisions and resource use, and listen to concerns.

Reflection and Practice

Choose one community decision. Find out who made it, what supported it, and where someone can express a different view.

Part 5 · From Philosophy to Reality

JBC Village

One Village · Many Paths · One Humanity

JBC Village is a community project that puts the JBC LIFE philosophy into everyday practice. It is not an independent territory intended to replace a state or evade applicable law.

It follows applicable law while exploring community ethics and voluntary practices that go beyond legal minimums. How people live together must be discussed in light of the specific place and participants' circumstances.

Living close to one another does not mean making every life the same. Respect time alone, private space, different religions and lifestyles, and freedom in relationships. Build trust by explaining the terms and responsibilities for shared spaces and resources in advance.

Reflection and Practice

When planning something together, ask both: 'What will we share?' and 'What will remain each person's own choice?'

Part 5 · From Philosophy to Reality

Nine Areas of Village Life

A good philosophy has a place in daily life.

MIND

Reflection, meditation and inner growth. Respect different approaches and the choice to participate.

BODY

Health, exercise and preventive care. Consider the conditions for care and recovery.

FAMILY

Family, childcare and elder care. Think together about the burden of caregiving.

LIFE

Life, animals and nature protection. Seek less harmful solutions.

WORK

Enterprise, technology, agriculture, art and research. Create value honestly.

SHARE

Shared infrastructure. Clarify responsibilities for use and maintenance.

LEARN

Lifelong education. Learn across generations and roles.

CREATE

Experimentation, invention and innovation. Share what failure teaches.

FREEDOM

Individual freedom and choice. Make room for participation and refusal.

Part 5 · From Philosophy to Reality

A Network of Small Villages

Relationships before size.

Autonomy before concentration of power.

JBC LIFE envisions a network of small, autonomous communities rather than a large centralized organization. Each village has substantial autonomy while sharing the basic principles of life, freedom and dignity.

The progression from 10 families to 30 families, 100 families, 1,000 people and a network of JBC Villages is a model of possible growth. It does not describe current membership or established villages, and it is not a compulsory target.

When discussing growth, consider care, living infrastructure and the capacity for explanation and accountability, not only the speed of expansion. Share lessons without hiding problems in small communities, and do not turn connection into the power to dominate other villages.

Reflection and Practice

Before a community grows, ask: 'Can we hear the people already here? Are we making promises beyond our capacity?'

Decisions and Conflict

Suggested practices for living together

When proposing a decision, explain its purpose, who is affected, the resources needed and alternatives. Disclose relevant interests and make it possible to record disagreement. These are practices for each community to discuss, not procedures already adopted by every village.

When conflict arises, focus on facts, harm and each person's needs rather than personal attacks. Neutral support may help when the people involved want it. Put safety and repair before demands for a quick apology or reconciliation.

Do not hide possible crime or violence as merely an internal village matter. Respect the freedom to seek official help. Even when public explanation is needed, do not unnecessarily disclose sensitive personal circumstances. Make it possible to raise concerns without retaliation.

Reflection and Practice

After a meeting, briefly record decisions, responsible roles and when to review them. Do not describe unresolved matters as agreed.

Part 6 · Practice Today

Five Questions for the Day

A code comes alive through repeated small choices.

One · What state of mind am I starting from?

Notice your present state before judging it. Consider whether urgency or fear is making decisions for you.

Two · Whose dignity will I meet today?

Make room for people close to you, strangers and those helping you to speak and to refuse.

Three · Is there a less harmful way?

Look for alternatives before actions that affect life and nature. Do not let convenience end the inquiry.

Four · What can I learn and share?

Ask about what you do not know. Share what you know with those who need it, listening to their wishes first.

Five · What can I put right?

Instead of hiding mistakes or punishing yourself, consider what you can change tomorrow and what help you need.

Reflection and Practice

You do not have to answer all five questions. Begin with the one you most need today.

Part 6 · Practice Today

Reading and Sharing Together

Reading aloud begins a conversation,
not an oath of obedience.

Read alone or share the book with family, friends and neighbors. In a group, make time for each person's experiences and questions rather than having one person teach the right answer.

Begin with a short sentence. Each person can describe where it meets their daily life. Leave room for disagreement. Finish by choosing a small, voluntary practice, and discuss what actually happened at the next gathering.

No one is obliged to confess pain or secrets. Respect the freedom to remain silent, and do not share someone's personal story outside the group without permission. Not attending a reading group must not reduce a person's opportunities or standing in the community.

Reflection and Practice

Instead of asking, 'Did you obey this rule?' ask, 'What question did this sentence bring into my life?'

Closing

The Tomorrow We Build Together

We don't wait for a better world.

We build it together.

Anyone who shares the JBC LIFE philosophy is welcome. No financial contribution is required to take part in the philosophy or general community. Forms of participation should respect each person's circumstances and choices.

All contributions, including blockchain-based contributions, are optional and voluntary. Sending money does not grant greater dignity, and not sending it does not remove the freedom to participate. Participation information is available on the website.

This book does not aim to end all questions. It asks again whether our words of respect became real respect, whether freedom was available to everyone, and whether care for life became action. A better life begins in the relationships we build together today.

Reflection and Practice

I respect myself. I respect you. I respect life. We learn with nature, question freely and build a better life together.

Edition, Sources and Sharing

How to Share This Book

JBC LIFE Code of Living

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An English translation of the Korean first edition, prepared for sharing from JBC LIFE's published philosophy and community declarations.

Sources: the JBC LIFE identity and core declaration; respect for nature and the unknown; respect without blind faith; science, philosophy and spirituality; respect for life; shared human wisdom; the 11 principles; Freedom Charter; JBC Village; and voluntary participation. No passages from religious scriptures are reproduced. Daily examples and suggested procedures explain the principles.

You may share this PDF and its official download link free of charge. When quoting an excerpt, name JBC LIFE and the book. Preserve its context so that it is not mistaken for compulsory doctrine or law. If sharing an edited version, distinguish it from the original and disclose the changes.

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For later editions, check the version and publication date on the website. Words in print remain open to questions and review.