

The Jesus MeetUp  
(Meeting Host Outline)

You Are Not Alone!

START AND END ON TIME!

Ice Breaker Game:

**If**

Ask the group to sit in a circle. Write 20 'IF' questions on cards and place them (question down) in the middle of the circle. The first person takes a card, reads it out and gives their answer, comment or explanation. The card is returned to the bottom of the pile before the next person takes their card.

This is a simple icebreaker to get young people talking and listening to others in the group. Keep it moving and don't play for too long. Write your own additional 'IF' questions to add to the list.

1. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
2. If I gave you \$10,000, what would you spend it on?
3. If you could watch your favourite movie now, what would it be?
4. If you could talk to anyone in the world, who would it be?
5. If you could wish one thing to come true this year, what would it be?
6. If you could live in any period of history, when would it be?
7. If you could change anything about yourself, what would you change?
8. If you could be someone else, who would you be?
9. If you could have any question answered, what would it be?
10. If you could watch your favourite TV show now, what would it be?
11. If you could have any kind of pet, what would you have?
12. If you could do your dream job what would it be?
13. If you had to be allergic to something, what would it be?
14. If you sat down next to Jesus on a bus, what would you talk about?
15. If money and time was no object, what would you be doing right now?
16. If you had one day to live over again, what day would you pick?
17. If you could eat your favorite food now, what would it be?
18. If you could learn any skill, what would it be?
19. If you were sent to live on a space station for three months and only allowed to bring three personal items with you, what would they be?
20. If you could buy a car right now, what would you buy?

## Group Ice Breaker Question:

What is your greatest achievement?

### My Story

(a pre-planned 5-7 minute story given by a member. Be sure and tell them that this cannot go over time! It would be good to have heard them do this for you over the phone the day before the meeting. If they don't let you hear it then they don't get to do it. You have to know that they won't go on for 15 minutes! Consider having a sign up sheet kept by the prayer cards for them to sign up. Also offer a take home My Story information sheet that may help some prepare.)

**Speaking:** 181:1.6 “Doubt not any of these truths even after you are scattered abroad by persecution and are downcast by many sorrows. When you feel that you are alone in the world, I will know of your isolation even as, when you are scattered every man to his own place, leaving the Son of Man in the hands of his enemies, you will know of mine. But I am never alone; always is the Father with me. Even at such a time I will pray for you. And all of these things have I told you that you might have peace and have it more abundantly. In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have triumphed in the world and shown you the way to eternal joy and everlasting service.”

**Question:** Every single one of us at this time and sitting in this room has the opportunity to grasp and take hold of the joyous truth that you are NEVER alone! Your heavenly Father and His Son are always within your own mind and soul carefully watching over the REAL You. Although our lives may become full of many challenges, hardships, sorrows and troubles we can rest assured that we are progressing steadily along the path toward our Father in Paradise as we are attempting to perfect ourselves with His tender care. We may have peace in our inner being as Jesus said ‘abundantly’. He never wanted for us to worry or be anxious even though we need to think through our problems and try to make the best and highest decisions and choices that we can for our lives.

### Joke or story:

Why didn't the skeleton go to the dance? He had nobody to go with.

Man can not live by bread **alone** ... he must have peanut butter.

I was once walking through the forest **alone**. A tree fell right in front of me, and I didn't hear a thing.

(These are really bad and stupid jokes, I know. But have fun making fun of how bad these jokes are. Even a stupid joke is fun when in a group of people. Find something fun to say or something for them to laugh about. Humor goes a LONG way in warming up a room full of people.

(Break into groups of 2-4 people or stay in a large group if not over 7 people)

**Question for small group:**

Was there a time in your life when you chose to withdraw or experienced the emotions of being very alone? (Allow 5-7 minutes for this. If conversations die down move to the next question.)

**Question for small group:**

Did you discover any benefits to this experience or time in your life? (Allow 5-7 minutes for this. If conversations die down move on to the next thing.)

(Bring all back together. Try not to read this like a script. Make it your own!)

**Speaking:** It seems like solitude or the experience of being very alone might be mildly uncomfortable or even terribly unbearable for us at times. However as most things in life we have a choice to make as to how we will deal with things like this. Will we fight the situation or become angry? Will we resort to some very unhealthy vices in order to try to gain control by some material means? Will we blame others or resort to cynicism and friendlessness? Or ~ will we allow these times in our lives to drive to God? Will we use the emotions we feel to send us on a deeper journey to our Father who dwells within ourselves? These painful times in our lives can actually become gifts of opportunity that result in a deeper personal spiritual experience in worship with our Father whom Jesus is helping us to discover. Sometimes, when pain or suffering is at an apex is the very time that God becomes His most demonstrative and active in our lives because our need for Him is heightened. Trust Him to be there for you. And while we are at it ~ let's attempt to trust one another as friends who can become treasured blessings for our lives.

**Say this:** Please be aware of time as others may want to speak as well.

**Question:** Does anyone have something that they might like to share with everyone?

(Check the time if people are talking too long or if someone is dominating the conversation. Some may need to leave and you did set a begin/end time for the meeting. People might not come back if they think that their time won't be valued.)

**Remind and invite people to write down any prayer needs on the cards before they go.**

Pass out the 'Reflections' take home sheets.

Ending prayer:

Invite all to join in for The Lord's Prayer as Jesus taught it:

144:3.3 Our Father who is in heaven,

144:3.4 Hallowed be your name.

144:3.5 Your kingdom come; your will be done

144:3.6 On earth as it is in heaven.

144:3.7 Give us this day our bread for tomorrow;

144:3.8 Refresh our souls with the water of life.

144:3.9 And forgive us every one our debts

144:3.10 As we also have forgiven our debtors.

144:3.11 Save us in temptation, deliver us from evil,

144:3.12 And increasingly make us perfect like yourself.

Thank everyone and say good-bye.

End of meeting (on time)

Ideas for success:

Less is more! Shorter interesting meetings are far better than ones too long and boring.

Leading a group means that everyone gets a chance to talk if they want to.

Don't let the attention seeker who talks too much ruin the experience for everyone.

Respect those who want to remain silent. They'll talk when they want to.

**PRACTICE YOUR SPEAKING IN THE MIRROR AT HOME WITH A STOPWATCH!**

You are the leader! It is your responsibility to keep things moving, start and end on time!

When inviting people to your group just say, "Come over this week and meet some of my friends. We just have fun and talk a little bit about what Jesus taught."