

CELEBRATIONS Jesus MeetUp Facilitator Worksheet:

The Jesus MeetUp (Meeting Host Outline)

Jesus Birthday Celebration (Aug. 21)

START AND END ON TIME!

[We do suggest that you consider making this celebration an evening shared meal. Begin your time with lovely food and drink with time to visit. If you would like to do this Ice Breaker game you may do so. However, we suggest that it be done when everyone has finished their meal. If these carols are unfamiliar to your group please feel free to change them to suit your needs.]

Ice Breaker:

Name That Carol

Make a list of lyrics from Christmas carols, but only provide 3-4 words from each song. The person who names all – or most – of the songs in a certain amount of time wins.

Pass out the **Carols Lyrics** sheets

Speaking: We have come together tonight to begin our spiritual year with the birth of our Master ~ Joshua ben Joseph, our Lord Jesus. For those of you who are new to reading our 5th epochal revelation of God to mankind, The Journey to the Father/The Urantia Book, you will come to understand that some of our spiritual dates and meanings have been a bit obscured and confused down through the ages. We do not seek to become ‘odd’ to our fellows. However, we do see ourselves as spiritual leaders and will do as Jesus did by sharing in all things possible while uplifting our communities with some higher and better ways. On Dec. 25 of this year we will be ‘normal’ (laugh about this) and celebrate the observed birth date of Jesus. Tonight, however, we choose to honor the true night of the calendar whereby we know for a fact that our Universal Sovereign Creator Son came to our world as a newborn babe for His world-

changing bestowal mission on our planet. As we calm our hearts, focus our minds and enter into a thankful attitude may we now begin!

[Lower the lights if you can for a lovely and worshipful effect but be sure people can read the lyric sheets and that you can see your outline. You will need to know when the sets for you as candlelight will play a lovely part at the end. Plan ahead for this!]

Passage:

122:8.1 All that night Mary was restless so that neither of them slept much. By the break of day the pangs of childbirth were well in evidence, and at noon, August 21, 7 B.C., with the help and kind ministrations of women fellow travelers, Mary was delivered of a male child. Jesus of Nazareth was born into the world, was wrapped in the clothes which Mary had brought along for such a possible contingency, and laid in a near-by manger.

122:8.2 In just the same manner as all babies before that day and since have come into the world, the promised child was born; and on the eighth day, according to the Jewish practice, he was circumcised and formally named Joshua (Jesus).

(Begin on a lower note/pitch for this carol as it ends on a higher note that may be hard to sing. Practice this. Or have someone sing this as a solo/duet.)

Singing: **O Holy Night**

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new glorious morn
Fall on your knees
O hear the angels' voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine o night
O night divine

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Passage:

122:8.3 The next day after the birth of Jesus, Joseph made his enrollment. Meeting a man they had talked with two nights previously at Jericho, Joseph was taken by him to a well-to-do friend who had a room at the inn, and who said he would gladly exchange quarters with the Nazareth couple. That afternoon they moved up to the inn, where they lived for almost three weeks until they found lodgings in the home of a distant relative of Joseph.

122:8.4 The second day after the birth of Jesus, Mary sent word to Elizabeth that her child had come and received word in return inviting Joseph up to Jerusalem to talk over all their affairs with Zacharias. The following week Joseph went to Jerusalem to confer with Zacharias. Both Zacharias and Elizabeth had become possessed with the sincere conviction that Jesus was indeed to become the Jewish deliverer, the Messiah, and that their son John was to be his chief of aides, his right-hand man of destiny. And since Mary held these same ideas, it was not difficult to prevail upon Joseph to remain in Bethlehem, the City of David, so that Jesus might grow up to become the successor of David on the throne of all Israel. Accordingly, they remained in Bethlehem more than a year, Joseph meantime working some at his carpenter's trade.

(We suggest that you now have everyone singing as it engages everyone in the room which is important for all.)

Singing: **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still
The dear Christ enters in.

Passage:

122:8.5 At the noontide birth of Jesus the seraphim of Urantia, assembled under their directors, did sing anthems of glory over the Bethlehem manger, but these utterances of praise were not heard by human ears. No shepherds nor any other mortal creatures came to pay homage to the babe of Bethlehem until the day of the arrival of certain priests from Ur, who were sent down from Jerusalem by Zacharias.

Singing: **Angels We Have Heard On High**

[Verse 1]

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly swinging o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

[Chorus]

Gloria In Excelsis Deo
Gloria In Excelsis Deo

[Verse 2]

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King

[Chorus]

Gloria In Excelsis Deo
Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Passage:

122:8.6 These priests from Mesopotamia had been told sometime before by a strange religious teacher of their country that he had had a dream in which he was informed that “the light of life” was about to appear on earth as a babe and among the Jews. And thither went these three teachers looking for this “light of life.” After many weeks of futile search in Jerusalem, they were about to return to Ur when Zacharias met them and disclosed his belief that Jesus was the object of their quest and sent them on to Bethlehem, where they found the babe and left their gifts with Mary, his earth mother. The babe was almost three weeks old at the time of their visit.

My Gift To God

Materials needed:

small piece of paper and pencil for everyone

beautifully wrapped *open* box set in the center of the room

Speaking: In this simple ceremony we offer a ‘gift to God’ written down on these small pieces of paper then folded and placed in the gift box in the center of the room. We take our time with this to possibly say a personal prayer over our gift before ‘giving it to God’ in the gift box. When everyone has done this we will open it up for those who would like to share their gift with the group to do

so. Please keep this as a simple declaration knowing that Jesus knows your full story. Then we will sing '**Silent Night**' together.

Materials needed: If you can provide small candles (not birthday cake candles as they don't burn long enough) for all of the adults or older children (with a base to collect the wax as it drips) this is a stunning effect for the end of your Jesus Birthday Celebration as you all sing '**Silent Night**'. The effect is better if the sun has gone down. Plan ahead for this.

Singing: **Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace (2x)

Silent night, holy night!
Cherubs quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born
Christ, the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

Material needed: Another box for the used and warm candles to be discarded. (An idea: These may be used again next year if you are trying to be cost effective)

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

Have plenty of The Lord's Prayer sheets around for them to take and read from. No Reflections Sheets this week.

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."