

The Jesus MeetUp
(Meeting Host Outline)

The Door Is Open For All!

START AND END ON TIME!

Ice Breaker Game:

Fact or fiction?

Ask everyone to write on a piece of paper THREE things about themselves which may not be known to the others in the group. Two are true and one is not. Taking turns they read out the three 'facts' about themselves and the rest of the group votes which are true and false. There are always surprises. This simple activity is always fun, and helps the group and leaders get to know more about each other.

Ice Breaker Question:

1. What's the best thing that's happened to you this week?

My Story

(a pre-planned 5 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: 138:4.2 That afternoon, which they spent together, Jesus fully instructed them concerning attendance upon festive gatherings, concluding his remarks by saying: "All men are my brothers. My Father in heaven does not despise any creature **of our making**. The kingdom of heaven is open to all men and women. No man may close the door of mercy in the face of any hungry soul who may seek to gain an entrance thereto. We will sit at meat with all who desire to hear of the kingdom. **As our Father in heaven looks down upon men, they are all alike.** Refuse not therefore to break bread with Pharisee or sinner, Sadducee or publican, Roman or Jew, rich or poor, free or bond. **The door of the kingdom is wide open for all who desire to know the truth and to find God.**"

Joke or story: Title: Dont be judgemental! (go slow and let this sink in for them)
2 tough questions.

Are you ready?

If you knew a woman who was pregnant, who had 8 kids already, three who were deaf, two who were blind, one mentally retarded, and she had syphilis, would you recommend that she have an abortion?

Read the next question before looking at the response for this one.

Question 2:

It is time to elect a new world leader, and only your vote counts. Here are the facts about the three candidates.

Candidate A.

Associates with crooked politicians, and consults with astrologist. He's had two mistresses. He also chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day.

Candidate B.

He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college and drinks a quart of whiskey every evening.

Candidate C

He is a decorated war hero. He's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and never cheated on his wife.

Which of these candidates would be our choice?

Candidate A is Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Candidate B is Winston Churchill.

Candidate C is Adolph Hitler.

And, by the way, on your answer to the abortion question: If you said YES, you just killed Beethoven.

Pretty interesting isn't it? Makes a person think before judging someone.

Question: Did any of you know that Jesus is our Creator Son? It is important to note that Jesus has said something astonishing in this passage. He has just told us that ‘He and His Father have created everything’ in our local universe together. This is a new revelation from anything that we have ever been told before. Most have known Jesus as the Son of God only. Now we know that Jesus is actually our Creator/Father as well as the Son of God and our human brother.

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

Question for small group: Had any of you heard before that God and Jesus were the creators of our local universe? If so, please tell us about this. (Allow 5-7 minutes for this. If conversations die down move to the next question.)

Question for small group: Does this change your perspectives regarding Jesus in any way? If so, how? (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: We read here that ‘**As our Father in heaven looks down upon men, they are all alike**’. Is this difficult for us to grasp? Are there people that we would determine as evil or in serious error in their lives? Do we feel justified in judging someone because of the wrong things that we see them do? Just how far does God’s love go for people? How do we deal with this in our own minds as we attempt to comprehend the love of our Father and how He sees all men/women/children alike?

Question for small group: How does this understanding of the love God for all people change our perspectives on what we see going on in the world at large (or our personal world) today?

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 and consider signing up for a My Story with information sheets by the cards.

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."