

The Jesus MeetUp  
(Meeting Host Outline)

Spiritual Liberty For All!

START AND END ON TIME!

Ice Breaker Game:  
**Tall stories**

The leader starts a story with a sentence that ends in SUDDENLY. The next person then has to add to the story with his own sentence that ends in SUDDENLY. Continue the story until everyone has contributed. The story becomes crazier as each young person adds their sentence. Tape it and play it back. For example; 'Yesterday I went to the zoo and was passing the elephant enclosure when SUDDENLY.....'

Ice Breaker Question:

Which would you prefer — three wishes over five years or one wish right now?

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:** <sup>138:3.6</sup> As the dinner progressed, the joy of the diners mounted to heights of good cheer, and everybody was having such a splendid time that the onlooking Pharisees began, in their hearts, to criticize Jesus for his participation in such a lighthearted and carefree affair. Later in the evening, when they were making speeches, one of the more malignant of the Pharisees went so far as to criticize Jesus' conduct to Peter, saying: "How dare you to teach that this man is righteous when he eats with publicans and sinners and thus lends his presence to such scenes of careless pleasure making." Peter whispered this criticism to Jesus before he spoke the parting blessing upon those assembled. When Jesus began to speak, he said: "In coming here tonight to welcome Matthew and Simon to our fellowship, I am glad to witness your lightheartedness and social good cheer, but you should rejoice still more because many of **you will find entrance into the coming kingdom of the spirit**, wherein you shall more abundantly

enjoy the good things of the kingdom of heaven. And to you who stand about criticizing me in your hearts because I have come here to make merry with these friends, let me say that **I have come to proclaim joy to the socially downtrodden and spiritual liberty to the moral captives.** Need I remind you that they who are whole need not a physician, but rather those who are sick? I have come, not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**Joke or story:**

There's a different kind of pride where I'm from. It's not like 'We're from New York: we're tough' or 'We're from Texas: we like things big.' It's more like, 'We're from Indiana, and we're gonna move.'

(We actually laughed out loud with this joke. Hope your friends laugh too. 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.)

**Question:** How do you think pride affects a person's personal spiritual liberty?

**Speaking:** These circumstances rendered it impossible for the Jews to fulfill their divine destiny as messengers of the new gospel of religious freedom and spiritual liberty. They could not break the fetters of tradition. Jeremiah had told of the "law to be written in men's hearts," Ezekiel had spoken of a "new spirit to live in man's soul," and the Psalmist had prayed that God would "create a clean heart within and renew a right spirit." But when the Jewish religion of good works and slavery to law fell victim to the stagnation of traditionalistic inertia, the motion of religious evolution passed westward to the European peoples. 121:7.5

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

**Question for small group:** What would be the change that Jesus was referring to when He said that they would soon 'enter the kingdom'? (Allow 5-7 minutes for this. If conversations die down move to the next question.)

**Question for small group:** What does 'spiritual liberty to moral captives' mean? (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:** The Master made it clear that the kingdom of heaven must begin with, and be centered in, the dual concept of the truth of the **fatherhood of God** and the correlated fact of the **brotherhood of man.** The acceptance of such a teaching, Jesus declared, would liberate man from the age-long bondage of animal fear and at the same time

enrich human living with the following endowments of the **new life of spiritual liberty**.  
170:2.1

We have talked about sonship before (we are all children of God). This is a dual concept meaning that the one will produce the other. As you grow in your personal experience, and thus your personal deeper understandings with knowing God as your Father you will find a new liberation in your mind and heart from things that have held you down before. You will begin to rise above the base emotions of animal fear, guilt and self-deprecation. At this same time you will begin to find yourself having new and liberating thoughts that you will recognize are not your own. Your life will begin to have a sense of renewal and enrichment. Following these efforts of spending time in personal spiritual experience in worship with your Father you will realize that you now have endowments, gifts, merciful ‘uplifts’ in your new inner life marked with this spiritual liberty. All that is required is faith!

**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."