

The Jesus MeetUp #1 (Meeting Host Outline)

You Are A Child Of God!

START AND END ON TIME!

Ice Breaker Game:

Name that person

Divide into two teams. Give each person a blank piece of card. Ask them to write five little known facts about themselves on their card. Include all leaders in this game too. For example, I have a pet iguana, I was born in Iceland, my favorite food is spinach, my grandmother is called Doris and my favorite color is vermilion.

Collect the cards into two team piles. Draw one card from the opposing team pile. Each team tries to name the person in as few clues as possible. Five points if they get it on the first clue, then 4, 3, 2, 1, 0. The team with the most points wins. (Note: if you select the most obscure facts first, it will increase the level of competition and general head scratching!)

Ice Breaker Question:

Who is the most inspirational person to you?

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.)

Passage: "Levi, I know much about your anxieties, sacrifices, and labors to keep the treasury replenished which your brethren do not know, and I am rejoiced that, though he who carried the bag is absent, the publican ambassador is here at my farewell gathering with the messengers of the kingdom. I pray that you may discern the meaning of my teaching with the eyes of the spirit. And when the new teacher comes into your heart, follow on as he will lead you and let your brethren see — even all the world — what the Father can do for a hated tax-gatherer who dared to follow the Son of Man and to believe the gospel of the kingdom. Even from the first, Levi, I loved you as I did these

other Galileans. Knowing then so well that neither the Father nor the Son has respect of persons, see to it that you make no such distinctions among those who become believers in the gospel through your ministry. And so, Matthew, dedicate your whole future life service to showing all men that God is no respecter of persons; that, in the sight of God and in the fellowship of the kingdom, all men are equal, all believers are the sons of God.” 181:2.4

(We do NOT discuss politics!)

Speaking: We have some serious issues on our world right now related to people being ‘respector-s of persons’. We can take our view higher and look at things at Jesus did. This re-telling of the last conversation between Matthew Levi, one of the apostles, reminds us of how Jesus did not look upon one person as better than another. And Jesus makes it resoundingly clear to Matthew that His Father did not either.

Question: Anybody heard of the IRS in America? Two things for sure on our world! Death and taxes ~ right?! How would you feel if for some reason the IRS came knocking on your door to set their fingers and eyes into your personal finances? Well, what Jesus is saying to His son, Matthew Levi is that he is completely accepted and held dear to both of Them. He told him that he was a dearly loved son of God. And thus...so are WE!

IRS Joke

Q: Why don't IRS agents audit cows? A: Because farmers milk them dry.

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

Question for small group: Anybody got an interesting IRS or money story? (Allow 5-7 minutes for this. If conversations die down move to the next question.)

Question for small group: Anyone ever experienced the joy of having some financial challenge become resolved? (Allow 5-7 minutes for this. If conversations die down move to the next question.)

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

Speaking: In our culture and society money is an ever-present material reality that all of us must deal with somehow. Often times we experience this inasmuch as we are either the ones charging someone some money, paying someone some money or we are the ones who must pay another person. It is inevitable that we will and have experience/d this.

Matthew Levi was a tax collector. He was hated among his own people for linking arms with the Romans to gather taxes from his own people. And he had become wealthy doing this. And yet, Jesus took him on to be one of His personally chosen 12 apostles. What a beautiful picture of how unprejudiced our Master was/is. And let's not forget that Jesus allowed even Judas Iscariot to be a part of His group as well!

ALL are beloved children of God. Whether we are looked down upon as the lowliest in our society or we are viewed as successful and to be honored among men/women this is merely our own problem of perception. This is NOT how God or Jesus sees any of us.

YOU are a dearly son or daughter of God! God has chosen to incarcerate Himself into your very mind and He doesn't leave when things go bad or we have made some decisions/choices that cause us trouble. He stays with us and experiences everything in our lives as our best friend.

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

Speaking: Please be aware of time as others may want to speak as well.

(Check the time if people are talking too long. 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:

All 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)

