

TRIAL MEETING FORMAT

As everyone arrives, follow the plan* that you as facilitators have set in advance, making the space welcoming, greeting everyone warmly, keeping on track with the time, and helping the group grow comfortable with each other.

* Use the Quickstart Guide, in [Coaching Resources](#), Session 4 at QPlace.com.

Welcome (1 min.)

Thank everyone for coming. Tell them how long the meeting will last and what time you'll end. Explain this kind of group and your role as both facilitators and participants.

Introductions (10 min.)

Ask everyone to give their name, where they live, and a favorite hobby. Go first, keeping it to a minute.

Facilitate Icebreaker Question(s) (10-20 min.)

Respond first, modeling how much time to take, and giving everyone time to think. Examples:

- *Where are you from and what did living there teach you about life?*
- *What was the best time of your life? Why?*
- *What is one of your happiest childhood memories?*
- *What was the best gift you ever gave? . . . received?*
- *If you could relive one vacation, which would it be?*

Ask the Main Question (10-15 min.)

Once the group is comfortable and connecting, explain that you have another question, and you would like to write down their answers because they could be the focus of another discussion. Let everyone know that they don't have to answer, and encourage the group to respond in any order (rather than going around the circle).

If you could ask God one question and you knew that he would answer, what would you ask, and why?

Be sure to use good listening skills. Don't attempt to answer their questions.

[See reverse side]

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Read and Discuss (choose one) (5-15 min.)

(1) Proverbs 4:5-7 (5 min)

I will read a short statement a few times and I'd like to hear your thoughts about it.

After reading and discussing, ask: *If you believed this statement was true, how would you apply it?*

(2) Mark 2:1-12 [Sample for Trial Meeting](#) (15 min)

Wrap Up and Conclude (10 min.)

1. Affirm the group's participation and suggest meeting again.

I have really enjoyed our time together! . . . What did you think? . . . I would love to have more discussions like this with you.

2. Give options. (Preselect 1-3)

If we were to meet again, what do you think about this idea? [pre-select option(s) to offer]

- *We could keep using The Complete Book of Questions and share our perspectives on life.*
- *We could discuss some of your questions for God using materials that would help us process those questions.*
- *We could see what the Bible says about a topic (like how to deal with anxiety), or we could read and discuss the life of Jesus.*

Which option sounds most intriguing to you?

3. Ask who is interested.

Who's in? You could also invite other friends who might be interested.

4. Share contact information.

5. Discuss details.

What day, time, and location would work for you?

As participants are leaving, be sure to thank each one for coming.

After the meeting, decide who will contact each participant, to follow up and hear what they think about their experience in the Trial Meeting. Pray for everyone who came and for others who may also join you.

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