LIVE JESUS
MINISTRIES

LJM STARTER KIT (SK1)
Relationship Building / Life Stories

Arrival & Hangout (Unstructured Time)

Allow time for everyone to mingle casually. Begin learning and using names.

Welcome (Mentor)

Example: I first want to say just how excited, humbled, and honored I am to walk with you all as a spiritual mentor. Way to go [Teen's Name] for stepping out and putting the group together. That takes some courage. My hope is that this can be a space for you to be real, build meaningful friendships, and grow in your faith and a deeper relationship with God.

- **Opening Prayer:** Keep it simple, yet meaningful. Trust that God will hear and answer your prayer.

Connect Questions

Go around the circle with these questions:

1. **"{Name}, tell us something unique about you that will help me never forget your name."**
    - Repeat their name out loud as they share.
2. **"How would you describe yourself in three words?"**
    - Have them explain each one briefly.
3. **"What do you think is the biggest misconception people have about you?"**
4. **"If you could tell a group of adults what it's like to be a teenager, what would you want to tell them?"**
    - Consider having them write this down on a piece of paper instead of a verbal conversation.

Privacy & Trust Talk

Example: "As we get started with this small group, trying to build a good foundation of trust ought to be a priority for us. That means we respect what's shared here and don't repeat it to people outside the group. We all slip up sometimes, but let's do our best to honor that trust. ***Two exceptions: #1*** *If someone is being hurt or is hurting someone else, we will pull in the adults needed to help you.* ***#2:*** *I plan to shoot your parents a short/brief recap message of what we discuss after each small group to keep them informed. Does that sound okay with all of you?"* (*Revisit this occasionally.*)

Life Stories: "So What's Your Story?"

Invite everyone to share their story to build up better relationships between one another.

- Impactful moments that have taken place in their life, family, school, struggles, high points, and what role God and faith have played throughout all of it.
- Invite the teen who started the group to go first to set the tone, or go first as their mentor to set the tone. (Let the conversation unfold naturally. Allow as much time as needed, and don't rush anyone.)

Wrap-Up & What's Next

Example: "Thank you for sharing. That takes courage. (For those who didn't get to go, we'll continue with life stories next time.) Eventually, our rhythm will be to ***pray****,* ***connect****, and* ***discuss*** *what's going on in your life and your relationship with God and then* ***commit*** *to doing something that will hopefully help your faith and relationship with God grow.*

Closing Prayer & Intentions

"Before we go, does anyone have a prayer intention—something or someone you want us to pray for?"

- Close with a group prayer incorporating all intentions.

Final Notes

- Remind them of communication channels for parents and teens (discuss with your youth discipleship coordinator)
- Send a brief follow-up message to parents: Share gratitude, confirm the next meeting, briefly share what was covered.

Mentor Notes

- Observe where each teen might be in their faith journey (Thresholds of Conversion).
- What formation needs are present (Dimensions of Formation).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your next steps. Don't rush content—build relationships.