
An ecumenical meeting to discuss a project

Cast:

Jacinda, Tracy, Sue, Dorothy, Diane

Props:

CD and player

Story:

Jacinda	Well there's only three of us but let's get started, shall we do introductions? I'm Jacinda and I go to the Abundantly Blessed and Spiritually Superior Fellowship over in Faraway City. I live here in Mytown but I was called to that church by the spirit. The leadership and teaching are far better than any of the churches round here, I need to be regularly filled in you see.
Sue	With a sweet but sarcastic smile I'm sure we could arrange that for you.
Jacinda	Now I am Jacinda the person who rang round and brought together our happy little band of sisters to run this event. I don't want you to see me as the leader though, we're all in this together, I'm more the visionary, the facilitator, I'll be looking to God to provide others to do the work, err bless us with their own particular gift. Perhaps the rest of you could introduce yourselves. Your name, position in the church and any training.
Sue	I'm Sue I go to the Trying to Follow God's Leading and Mostly Managing It Fellowship. Err, I teach Sunday School, have run Kids Klubs, done outreach with my church, helped lead nurture groups, go to the children's conference every year and I work in a school.
Jacinda	Not in leadership then?
Sue	With a shrug My husband's a deacon.
Jacinda	Ahh well now we're getting somewhere.
Diane	I'm Diane I go to the New Wine with a Few Old Skins Parish Church. I help with the Sunday school.
Jacinda	But you don't actually run it? Well not to worry, I am expecting some pastors from other fellowships to turn up. Let's make a start. This first session, I don't really want to discuss the event itself, I want us to bond, get to know each other, find our strengths and weaknesses and I'll share my vision. Let's start with prayer as without Him points to sky , I wouldn't have had my vision and none of this would be possible. I'm going to play a

	song and we'll all meditate on it, then the Holy Spirit will fall and we will pray as we feel led.
Dorothy	Comes onto scene Hello everyone.
Jacinda	Ah welcome, do sit down let's do introductions, shall we? Tell everyone who you are and your experience, and then we'll go around the circle.
Dorothy	I'm Dorothy I go to the Lots of Nice People Trying Their Best Methodist Church. I've done Sunday School for 30 years since I was 12 and got too old to be in the baby class, and we've run quite a successful youth group for some time.
Jacinda	Married to the minister?
Dorothy	No need I be?
Jacinda	Of course not, we value everyone here no matter how lowly. Sue?
Sue	I'm Sue I go to the Trying to Follow God's Leading and Mostly Managing It Fellowship. Err, I teach Sunday School and have run Kids Klubs
Diane	I'm Diane I go to the New Wine with a Few Old Skins Parish Church.
Jacinda	And I'm Jacinda, who spoke to your minister on the phone and had the vision and brought us all together. Now back to prayer, I was just saying Dorothy, I'm going to play a song and we'll all meditate on it and then pray as you feel led.
Tracy	Hello, have I come to the right place?
Jacinda	Ahh Tracy, welcome, this is Tracy everyone, now she is a Vicar at St. Bring and Buy in the Countryside. She will have lots to impart. Sit down Tracy, shall we do introductions everyone?
Tracy	Well Jacinda has told you who I am, sorry I'm late, I'm on the local darts team and the match took a bit longer than we thought.
Sue	I'm Sue
Diane	I'm Diane
Dorothy	I'm Dorothy I go to the Lots of Nice People Trying Their Best Methodist Church. I've done Sunday School for 30 years since I was 12 and got too old to be in the baby class, and we've run quite a successful youth group for some time. In the church hall, we got them from all the surr.....
Sue	And you've only been through one set of introductions; shall we start? presses the cd machine
	All assume prayer positions - Jacinda beaming smile eyes up, Sue normal, Diane hands together eyes closed, Dorothy sitting normally, Tracy lolled back in chair. Music plays for a short time.

Jacinda	all in simpering voice and each time she speaks people shift uncomfortably Now as we feel led. Gives it a minute Feel free to say whatever is on your heart. Gives it a minute Whenever you're ready. Gives it a minute Let the Spirit inspire. Gives it a minute Thank you God for silence, thank you for the peace it imparts and that we obviously feel so comfortable in each other's company that words are unnecessary. Amen
All	Mutter Amen
Jacinda	Brightening, right now I've got a course here that I want us to follow for the event and it has some great team building exercises in it. Now this might seem a bit strange but I want us to ...
Sue	Jacinda?
Jacinda	Yes Sue?
Sue	We won't have to stand on boxes and sing, or feel each other whilst we're blind folded or anything like that?
Jacinda	No
Tracy	Or one of us lie on the floor and the others stand around in a circle talking about him?
Jacinda	No, now the book suggests that everyone should shout, 'I hate you!'. Sounds a bit funny I know, but that's what it says. The idea is we clear out all the repressed aggression and bad temper that's got stuck inside and pushed down and err ... that sort of thing Now everybody after three, one, two, th
Diane	Shrieeks I hate you!
Jacinda	Yes, Diane err good effort, now if we could just try it together this time. One, two, three
All	Pathetically I hate you
Dorothy	In love.
Jacinda	No Dorothy don't add in love on the end that defeats the object. Now I honestly don't think much aggression came out then do you? Let's try it again. One, two, three
All	Slightly louder but not much better I hate you.
Dorothy	In l..... sorry
Jacinda	Look let's just try to imagine the person or thing we hate most and then try again, right? Diane what would that be for you?
Diane	Interesting; for me I think it would be the Devil.
All	Impressed murmurs

Jacinda	What about you Tracy?
Tracy	Simon Cowell
Jacinda	Why?
Tracy	I don't know he just really gets on my nerves, "I don't like it blah blah."
Jacinda	Ok well at least we're getting somewhere now. Dorothy?
Dorothy	I hate it when you have a bath, then you realise you've forgotten to bring a towel in, and you have to get out again and try not to get soap suds on the carpet and then you realise the clean one is in the washing basket, in your bedroom and the curtains are open and
Jacinda	OK good well let's get on with it, again.
Sue	Coughs loudly
Jacinda	Yes, Sue what is it?
Sue	You haven't asked me.
Jacinda	Sorry OK Sue what do you hate most?
Sue	Being left out, anyway you haven't told us what you hate most.
Jacinda	Well I, err, I hate anyone being nasty to my husband, I can't stand that, I mean I'm the only one who can be nasty to my husband, I didn't mean it that way. Anyway, let's get on with it. One, two, three
All	I hate you.
Jacinda	Good now let's move on to the second exercise.
Sue	Do we have to?
Jacinda	Well it does finish off the first one. This time we sit and think of the things that bring us peace and then we share our images with the others.. OK close your eyes and think sweet thoughts Give it a minute . Diane, share with us
Diane	Well I pictured myself dying and being lifted up by two heavenly cherubim until I found I had entered a city of gold, where I joined a white robed throng singing praise and worship for all eternity to, he who is above all and joy and elation filled the firmament.
Jacinda	Wonderful. Tracy?
Tracy	I am lying on a sandy beach, just listening to sea gulls and seaside noises and the sun is shining down, it's lovely.
Jacinda	Hmm, not very holy but harmless enough I suppose. Sue?
Sue	Err. I was blank, trying to cover up I mean very serene, peaceful, at one with God.

Dorothy	It is a far, far better thing I do now than anyone has ever done before. Friends, Romans, Countrymen the world is my stage and everyone here is acting.
Jacinda	Dorothy!
Dorothy	Startled Et tu Brute? I mean what was it Jacinda?
Jacinda	Perhaps we'll finish that there. Now the next stage is to confess any sins which have been brought to mind following the peace and calm. Any little thing God has reminded us of that might be a hindrance at the event.
	Everyone except Tracy squidges lower in their chair.
Jacinda	Perhaps we've not set quite the right tone with that, has anyone else got anything worth sharing.
Dorothy	I always find a bit of light heartedness helps ease the tension and then people can share more easily.
Jacinda	Well that's positive, the Spirit has a sense of humour at times, we all know that.
Dorothy	between each first line every one - except Jacinda who looks disapproving, says 'I don't know.... Then the line of the joke'. What does a Scottish Owl do? Hoots Mon What does a Scottish boxer call the fighters he trains with. Sporrans partners What do you call a Scotsman who's looking down a rabbit hole. Edinburgh
Jacinda	Well thank you for that contribution Dorothy, perhaps it would be easier if we spoke directly to God. And I realise perhaps I am spoilt by going to a Spirit filled church of thousands where everyone is used to praying out loud. I understand, let's bring it down a level. Let's pray again and this time we'll go around the circle, so you have to, er so that you're aware when it's time for you to pray, now remember we're thinking about sin and forgiveness.
Tracy	Lord, I want to pray for all those who have felt led to buy a lottery ticket.
Dorothy	Forgive them for their greed and gambling Lord.
Tracy	as if no-one has said anything I know some people disapprove of gambling and so if that's right I ask forgiveness for them. But I'm C of E. and we benefit from the fund. So I pray that if someone had bought one, purely in the hope of having some money to do good with, and who would of course pay for the entire steeple to have scaffolding put around it. That well you could see your way to allowing that person to win the lottery, because greed was not at the heart of it, just doing good. Amen
All	Muffled Amen.

Diane	Lord I ask forgiveness for the cats and dogs on my street. Lord they are lovely and fluffy and but they don't see the misery and suffering they are causing. They are friendly and caring and always come to say hello to me. But it's the poo Lord, it causes so many problems, it smells and it gets on your shoe. Forgive them for the poo Lord. Forgive them because they know not what they do. Forgive them for
Sue	interrupting Lord I want to thank you for these people, for them giving their time to come here. Forgive us for not appreciating each other enough.
Jacinda	at last getting something spiritual Yes Lord!
Sue	Help us to love and understand each other
Jacinda	getting more excited Amen Lord!
Sue	Use us in your work Lord,
Jacinda	Use us Lord use us!
Sue	I know you can Lord, you sent a donkey to speak to Balaam and if you can use a donkey then you can use even these people.
Jacinda	Yes Lord make us donkeys for you!
All	loudly Amen
Jacinda	Amen Well I think that was a very successful evening, next time I expect to have more clergy and some leaders from various organisations like Scripture for All and Taking our Nation so all of you will be able to benefit from being in the presence of those more spiritual than yourselves. I'm hoping they'll do some of the leading so I don't have to carry that burden all by myself. Now to finish I think a chorus of bind us together is appropriate. Join hands!
All	Sing bind us together - Jacinda has simpering smile and keeps beaming at everyone, Sue looks at feet, Diane has simpering smile, Dorothy is normal, Tracy sings and swings arms as if she's at a German beer festival.
Tracy	Anyway, guys and gals it's been great but I have to run waves a ticket , I need to check my numbers.