

How To Host A Short Film Gathering





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What is a Short Film Gathering?

Film is everywhere. In all the world's major cultures people watch films. One of the reasons for the popularity of this medium is that it elicits reactions—powerfully evoking thoughts, feelings and longings. It engages both our minds and our hearts.

A Short Film Gathering is an outreach that leverages the power of film to provide a fun, relational and non-confrontational way to enter into meaningful conversations with people.

Many of these short films are intended to help spark spiritual conversations, so listen carefully for those who are open to immediate or future discussions.

Whether your event is in-person or virtual, our hope is that you will have some great dialogue while building relationships.



Preparation



Preparation check list:

- Choose Time And Place** (A dark room may be needed for the film showing.)
- Invite/promote**
- Choose films (see list below)**
- Secure the needed equipment for showing the films** (projector/screen if needed, laptops or tablets if needed, etc.)
- Choose how you want to collect contact info for follow-up** (comment card, QR code, etc.)
- Prepare for snacks**
- Choose and prepare emcee & discussion facilitators**

PLEASE NOTE:

Any content that is included in this digital resource is the intellectual property of Jesus Film Project®.

You may use the images included only for the purpose of promoting your film-showing event.

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Program Flow



**WELCOME EVERYONE
AND INTRODUCE
THE EVENT.**
(5 Minutes)

**INTRODUCE THE
SHORT FILM**
(1-3 Minutes)

**WATCH THE
SHORT FILM**
(3-5 Minutes)



**SHARE DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS
AND DISCUSS IN
SMALL GROUPS**
See page 8 for questions
(10 Minutes)

**REPEAT STEPS
2 to 4
FOR ALL OF THE
SHORT FILMS**



Get Feedback
Ask the viewers to fill out
comment cards or other
forms of feedback (QR code,
survey, etc.)
(5 minutes)



HOST THANKS EVERYONE
For coming and closes the event
(3 minutes)

At the Event



Plan 20-30 minutes for socializing and snacks. Give a two-minute warning before you start.

▶ I. Introduce yourself/group.

In this outreach, explain that you are partnering with a film company that makes short films to inspire cross-cultural and spiritual conversations. Mention that we all have shared common themes in our lives. And that we'd like feedback on whether we've captured those themes well in these films.

▶ II. Give a brief overview of your time.

Explain that you are going to show 3-4 short films (or however many you are showing) and discuss them in small groups in between each showing.

▶ III. Show the first film.

After the film ends, raise the lights and transition to your discussion time. The discussion leaders will present the questions to their groups.

Give participants time to discuss in their groups.

The host will keep track of time and close the discussions when appropriate by asking everyone if anything stood out. Or they can just move on to the next film.

▶ IV. Transition to the next film

Introduce the next film (film name and running time). Go through the steps above just as you did for the first film.

▶ V. Close out the event

Thank the viewers for coming and get contact information. Now, be social! Make sure there are enough snacks and beverages for this time. This is the best time to get contact information from those with whom you wish to follow up and set up a time to get together again.

Sample Questions for a Short Film Gathering

All of the films listed below can be found at Jesusfilm.org, and on the Jesus Film Project® app. All films on both platforms include questions that can be used as part of a film gathering outreach.

01

Delight

A pastry chef labors to put the finishing touches on his elegant cake. **Duration: 1:23**

- How did the film make you feel? Why?
- Which character do you most relate to? Why?
- Have you ever felt loved like that? By whom?

02

Venia

A man uses signs to show his father all the ways he has hurt him. **Duration: 4:34**

- What did you think of the quote at the end?
- What does “Enlarge the Future” mean?
- Why do you think the son waited to write the last card?
- Is it common to ask for forgiveness, or to say I forgive you? Why or why not?

03

Doll Face

A lifelike machine tries to attain an impossible beauty standard. **Duration: 4:13**

- What do you think this film is about?
- How do you relate to this film?
- Where do people look to find fulfillment?

04

Jätku Leiba

Johanna, a single mom, is reminded of hope during a desperate situation. **Duration: 7:31**

- When do you think the story turned around?
- Do you agree with the note “Nothing is broken forever”? Why or why not?
- How do people in your culture/city deal with “brokenness”?



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05

Ctrl Z

When a computer malfunctions, an office loner takes the chance to magically undo some regrets. **Duration: 6:04**

- What did you like about the film? Why?
- Can you relate to the moment the keyboard was being repaired? How?
- What motivates us to want to redo things in our lives?
- How do people in your culture handle regret (talking, escapism, religion, etc.)?

06

La Liberté

A man in a small windowless cube finds freedom. **Duration: 5:04**

- Where did the man's freedom come from?
- How did the man respond at first to what he was discovering? Why do you think his response changed as the film went on?
- What are things that make people feel trapped?

07

Flow

A man has two sources of water, his sink and his toilet. Which one will he choose to drink from? **Duration: 4:03**

- Why does the man use the toilet water rather than the sink water?
- Metaphorically, have you seen people drink "toilet water"? What do you think motivates them to do this?
- How do you get a friend to see they are drinking bad water (doing something that isn't good for them) when something better is available?

08

Vinyl

A slightly obsessive vinyl record fanatic searches for his missing favorite. **Duration: 4:12**

- Why does losing something, or being lost, cause such a feeling of panic?
- What have you lost that would cause you to throw a party if you got it back?
- If you were lost, how would you feel if someone searched for you like this?
- How do you find comfort when you experience loss?



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Breathe

A young woman frantically searches for life-giving medicine. **Duration: 1:51**

- What do you think happened at the end?
- What do you think are the desperate needs we are facing today? What about life is important to you?

10

Be Me

A young woman struggling with life's challenges, finds a phone app that changes everything. **Duration: 3:26**

- Why do you think Jane uses the app?
- If you used this app what would be your go-to label?
- How would a loving father react to seeing his daughter make all these attempts to be accepted?

To find all of our JFP Short-Films, download The Jesus Film Project app from the app store and go to the collection entitled, Short Films.



Comment Cards

We're glad you came!

What stood out to you during the Film Gathering? What did you like?

If anything, what would you change about the Film Gathering?

I would like to talk more with someone about what was discussed in our discussion group...

Yes Maybe Not interested

Name: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____



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