

## **YOU ARE NOT ALONE - Clergy talk - First Day**

THIS TALK SHOULD BE NO LONGER THAN 15 MINUTES!

The sharing of general agape should be an additional ten minutes.

CORE IDEAS:

- God Loves you! Who is Jesus?
- Jesus is our Friend! Introduction of Agape

LORD'S PRAYER

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Speaker introduces self
- B. Speaker gives title of the talk
- C. Remind to take notes

### II. GOD WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND

A. Throughout the Bible we see evidence that God wants to be our friend. God loves you! (Briefly illustrate through scripture.) God's ultimate evidence of His love for us was Jesus.

B. Jesus wants to be your best friend. Jesus loves you! It's your choice. You pick your friends. Jesus wants you to choose to be His friend. He will never leave you or reject you. He'll be the best friend you'll ever have. (Contrast with human friendship.)

- C. Personal witness of speaker on how Jesus has been your best friend.

### III. WE ARE NOT ALONE - YOU ARE LOVED

A. God loves us. God knew that we needed to be able to see and feel His love so God sent other Christians to love and support us. (Personal witness of speaker on how the Christian community has strengthened you.)

B. The members of this team and Christians all over the world love you, care about you and have been praying for you by name. The reason these people love you unconditionally is because Jesus is their friend. No one is expecting anything in return from you.

C. That's what God's love is like - God loves you unconditionally. (Personal witness on how you have experienced God's unconditional love.)

#### IV. AGAPE

A. God's unconditional love can be expressed in many ways. Sometimes it's a hug or an encouraging word or a prayer. Sometimes you can actually see it.

B. There is a special word we use to describe prayer and other expressions of God's unconditional love that's happening for you this weekend. It is Agape. Agape love is giving something to someone else unconditionally, wanting or expecting nothing back in return. Agape love is the way God loves us. We can see it today through the written expressions of other Christians and through their prayers, sacrifices and love on our behalf. A word that is often used to express this agape is "DeColores" and it can be used to say "Hello" or "Good-bye" or other expressions of love.

C. The speaker then shares these expressions beginning with the prayer vigil. Please share the agape with feeling and meaning. Your task is to relay to the Stars the significance of Agape.

D. God loves you, Jesus loves you and a lot of Christian brothers and sisters (as evidenced by all the Agape in this room) love you - YOU ARE NOT ALONE! YOU ARE LOVED!

Place puzzle piece in the puzzle at the end of the talk.