Intermediate social media outreach: using **Jitsi Meet** for small groups (Pastoral or finance councils, Bible studies, Life in the Spirit seminar, Marian Consecration reflections, viewing witness videos together, Discipleship Quads, and more)

**Jitsi Meet is open source videoconferencing software, simple to use, and FREE.**

* It’s similar to Zoom in that it allows you to videocall people, even multiple people. You set up a room with your own room name, and then send that URL to everyone you want to meet in the videoconference.
* It differs from Zoom in that you can meet with a large number of people for free, and for as long as you want. **But you also cannot “preset” appointments.**

Jitsi Meet has deeper security measures built in than Zoom. But as an open source platform, if you want tech help, there is no one to call for support. There *are* discussion boards to troubleshoot problems.

*If you use Jitsi Meet in the simplest way possible, you will rarely have any problems.* Unless you have a programming background, you will want to stay simple.

Here are a couple of simple ways to use Jitsi Meet for small group meeting and sharing online.

**Sample A: Bible Study (or adapt for Marian Consecration presentation/discussion group, Discipleship Quads, pastoral council meetings, etc.)**

Communicate with your parish/cluster that you are beginning a Bible Study, and ask for emails.

* Once you have an interest list with emails,
  + send them the readings, schedule with dates and times to meet,
  + tell them they will need to be connected to an internet browser on a smartphone or a computer with camera and mic (or at least mic),
  + and tell them to check their email 5 minutes before the start of the Bible Study.
* The first time you meet, 15 minutes ahead, go on Jitsi Meet HERE: <https://meet.jit.si/> (this URL-- don’t google Jitsi Meet for this! The org website won’t help.)
* Create a room name. I would suggest something connected but unusual, so random people don’t “drop in.” For example: StJohnChurchGalatiansSession1
* Then click “go”…
* You will suddenly be “in the room.” (No download needed on a desktop.) You will see a pop up that has the link and phone number for calling in. You can add a password (unnecessary in my estimation, but you can). Then click copy, and this information will be copied.
* Minimize (don’t X out!) that screen tab and go to your email, and send this copied link to your small group list, with a note to join in at \_\_\_ o’clock. Keep the room open and wait for people to come.
* Close out when done, and do this process with each successive meeting.

This is described for using a computer. If using a cell phone, do a practice run first…the details look a little different. You can download Jitsi Meet for android or IOs.

**Sample B: Life in the Spirit Seminar (or any other video-sharing small group)**

Same as above. But once people are assembled in the virtual room and ready to watch a video, you need to--

* Have the URL of the Youtube video copied (you get this by clicking the Share button under the video on Youtube)
* Ask participants to voluntarily mute themselves by clicking the microphone icon on screen.
* Move your cursor to the three vertical dots on the lower right of the Meet.jit.si screen. Click for a drop box.
* Go to the “Share a Youtube Video,” and click.
* Enter the URL as prompted by pasting your copied URL, and click OK.
* The video launches, and all of you watch automatically.
* Once the video stops, go back to the three vertical dots, click, and find “Stop Youtube Video,” click OK….and you’re all back.
* Ask participants to unmute themselves by clicking the microphone icon on the screen.
* Continue as an online discussion.

It is worth playing with this a bit before using it for a meeting to become comfortable with it, but the basics are very user-friendly.

Enjoy!