



Meeting Format

Thursday Night Big Book Study Meeting

After everyone is seated, open the meeting with a **moment of silence for the still-suffering alcoholic, followed by the Serenity Prayer.**

Introduce yourself and say **“This is a closed meeting of the Primary Purpose Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed meeting is limited to those who have a desire to stop drinking. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend this meeting. In keeping with our Primary Purpose, we ask all who share to confine their discussion to their personal experience with alcoholism and recovery from alcoholism”**

Ask (*if necessary*): **“ Is there anyone here for their first AA meeting?”** Greet any of those new to AA

Say something like: ***“We’re glad you are here. Please stay after the meeting and get to know some of us. If you need a sponsor, see the chairman after the meeting and one will be provided for you.”***

Ask (*if necessary*) : **“ Is there anyone visiting from another group who would like to be recognized?”** Greet any of those new to our group.

*****If any non-alcoholics are present, whether family or friends of the alcoholic or those who introduce themselves only as addicts, follow the instructions on the “closed meeting” card******

Announce: **“We would like to ask all present to please turn off the volume on their cell phones and pagers so that we may limit disturbances to our meeting”.**

Ask: **“Are there any other AA-related announcements?”**

Have an AA Member read from the **Foreword to the First Edition**

Begin the meeting by saying: **“Before we begin our study of the Big Book, we have asked a member to share on the ___Tradition (or Concept)”.**

Turn the meeting over to this week’s volunteer **to read the short and long form of this week’s Tradition, or short form of the Concept and comment for up to 5 minutes.**

After the Tradition or Concept has been presented, ask: **“Does everyone have a Big Book”?**

Get the members to arrange themselves so that they may share their books with those who didn’t bring their book

(OVER)

Open the Study Session by saying:

“For our meeting tonight, we will be studying the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. We will read one page at a time from the Big Book. The Chairperson will then invite comments on the material on that page only. All members present who have experience to share on the material may share before the group moves onto the next page.”

“Please limit your comments to the page being studied and avoid sharing personal opinions or individual interpretations of the material. If you have taken the Step which is being studied or have personal experience with the subject we are studying, please share that experience with us. If you haven’t, please be open-minded enough to listen. We ask all present to try to limit their sharing to under 5 minutes and those in their first 90 days of sobriety are encouraged to listen. Of course, anyone who has a question on the material being studied or the meaning of a particular word should feel free to ask the group.”

Ask: Who would like to read for us tonight? (or ask a member to read)

“Tonight we will begin our study on page ____” (Conduct the meeting)

After the Big Book Study period has concluded : *(do not pass the hat while others are sharing)*

Pass “the hat” for 7th Tradition Contributions, reminding the members that are fully self-supporting and that any funds beyond our meeting expenses will be used where they may best carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Ask for a volunteer to bring next week’s Tradition or Concept

Give out chips *(do not make a lengthy production out of this, just offer chips for 0,30,90,6 month, 9 month, and anniversary**.)*

****remind members that if they have an anniversary coming up, let us know ahead of time so that we may arrange to have your sponsor get a medallion for you.**

Remind the members of the Twelfth Tradition:

‘And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of Anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all’.

Conclude with The Lord’s Prayer or prayer of your choice said in silence.

Make sure that the room is clean and materials are put away before leaving!!