

BIG BOOK 101

GREETING

Hello, my name is _____, I am an Alcoholic. **My Homegroup is** _____ . Welcome to the **Big Book 101 Group**.

This is an open A. A. Big Book Step Study meeting. We particularly welcome beginners. This is a Non-Smoking meeting. We are guests of St. Colman Church. Please remember that and act accordingly.

Is there anyone here who is attending his or her **first AA meeting** or attending **this meeting** for the first time? May we have your **first name** so that we may welcome you? May we also see the hands of all those who have less than **Ninety days** of sobriety. Please tell us your **first name** so that we may welcome you. Whether you are new or have been around AA for a while, please don't leave carrying a burden or a question. Stick around after the meeting if necessary and share that burden with us. Allow us the opportunity to be of service.

It is strongly recommended that everyone have a **Sponsor and a Homegroup**. May we see the hands of all who have been through the steps out of the Big Book with a Sponsor - and who are willing to act as a **Sponsor for others**? Please, whenever anyone introduces themselves could you remember to tell us your Homegroup. This helps us to know you better and acts as an example to others.

Are there any **announcements** for the good of A A?

We like to begin the meeting with a moment of silence for **Personal Reflection** on Who we are, Where we are and Why we are here. Followed by the **Serenity Prayer**. Take a moment...

Read the AA Preamble:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

EXPLAIN ANNIVERSARIES:

We celebrate all anniversaries the **last Thursday** of each month. If you are celebrating an anniversary this month, please sign our **Anniversary Book** so that we can acknowledge you along with the others at the end of the month. ***However, if you have been sober less than a year and would like to have an anniversary recognized, please raise you hand now.***

EXPLAIN THE FORMAT:

We have a very simple format. We will read some pages from the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. We will then discuss some questions from the reading. You will notice that the page and line numbers to answer the questions are provided. This is not a test of intelligence, but an opportunity to learn the A A recovery program from our basic text and from those who have already worked to study and apply this program in their daily living.

READING: Notes to the Chairperson (not intended to be read aloud)

Each night the Monthly Chairperson should select enough of a reading to cover 5-6 questions (keep it brief but thorough). Re-reading some of what was read the previous week is fine if the group wasn't able to cover all of the questions. We don't skip questions that were not completed the previous week.

The Monthly Chairperson may (at their option) preview and/or summarize briefly the reading for the evening. They may also summarize the answers to questions as a transition to the next question.

DO THE READING – One paragraph each going around the room until the selected reading has been completed.

******* AFTER THE READING PASS THE BASKET *******

As an A A Group we have no dues or fees. However, we do have expenses. Our Seventh Tradition states that, - ***"The A. A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members."*** Please help us out if you can. Thank You.

While the basket is being passed and **prior to the Q & A** portion of the meeting read the '**Blue Card**' (below):

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here — especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition, which states that "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking," we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: Notes to the Chairperson (not meant to be read aloud except where noted in **BOLD**)

Explain, ***"Once someone has read the question - and the answer from the book, they can speak briefly on the question sharing their understanding and experience."***

Referring to the overhead and the first question ask, ***"May we have a volunteer to take the first question...?"***

When the first person has completed their sharing the Chairperson asks, ***"are there any others who would like to share on this question?"***

Once two or three people have spoken on the question and/or the chairperson feels it has been covered, ask for a volunteer to take the second question and so forth, until the hour is over.

Remember... the Chairperson has the option to summarize the answer before moving on.

CLOSING:

We've come to the end of the hour. Thank you all for joining us. We encourage newcomers, or anyone, who has questions or comments to please discuss them with someone before leaving. All are welcome to stay around after the meeting to share in some fellowship. Please help us to clean up. Thank you.

We would like to close now with "**I am responsible...**" followed by the **Lord's Prayer**. Put the "**I am Responsible**" overhead up on the screen.

Last Week of the Month: End the Q & A session early enough to allow for the celebration of Anniversaries. The Chairperson, or a person of the Celebrants choosing, briefly introduces each Celebrant one at a time. The Celebrant may then come to the front of the room and share for a few minutes on whatever they like. The Chairperson then closes the meeting in the usual way.