

WE AGNOSTICS

(Before the meeting begins, select a reader for Appendix II, Spiritual Experience, found on page 569 of the Third Edition of the Big Book.)

Good Evening. This is the regular Friday Night meeting of the AA group, We Agnostics. My name is _____ and I am an Alcoholic.

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; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

May we see the hands of any newcomers to AA with less than 30 days of sobriety?

Are there any visitors from out of town?

May we see the hands of those who have never attended this meeting before?

You are very welcome here. We urge you to get names and numbers from regular members of this group.

Out of consideration for others, please set all cell-phones and pagers to “silent”, and please take any private conversation out of the room.

Starting at my right, we will now go around the room and introduce ourselves.

The We Agnostics group has a tradition of free expression. Here you may feel free to express any doubts or disbeliefs you may have and to share your own form of “Spiritual Experience”, your search for it, or even your rejection of it. We do not endorse atheism nor oppose it. We do not oppose any form of religion nor endorse it. Our only wish is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in AA without having to accept anyone else’s belief or having to deny their own. The only requirement for AA membership is the desire to stop drinking.

There will be no closing prayer. At this meeting we hold hands for a moment of silence and repeat the AA “Declaration of Responsibility”.

Each week at this meeting we read Appendix II from our Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous entitled “Spiritual Experience”. Tonight I have asked _____ to read it for us.

[Reading Appendix II happens]

Are there any birthdays tonight? *(If so, cakes are presented).*

It is now time for the leader to qualify.

[Leader shares for approximately 10 minutes]

We will now start the discussion. There will be no coffee break. Please feel free to help yourself to refreshments. We will follow this procedure: I will alternately pick people who raise their hands and people who do not. This is a timed meeting. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated. Please try to limit your sharing to five minutes. At five minutes, you will be reminded by the sound of our timer. Please wrap up your share as soon as you can. We also ask that you speak only once and that there be no cross talk.

[Sharing until 9:50]

Our time has run out. We will now observe the Seventh Tradition which states that AA is self-supporting through its own contributions. Please remain seated while we pass the basket. While the basket is being passed, we will have announcements from our secretary.

[Secretary's announcements]

Are there any other AA announcements?

Does anyone need a ride?

We need two volunteers to help clean up.

Is there anyone who feels the need to say something more? If you came in with a problem, don't leave with a problem. (*Call on all who raise their hands*).

I will now read the Promises which can be found on page 83 of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous following discussion of the first nine steps.

“If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are halfway through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word “serenity” and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook on life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God (or a higher power) will do for us what we could not do for ourselves.”

We will now hold hands for a moment of silence and on “three”, repeat the “AA Declaration of Responsibility”.

“When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible.” “KEEP COMING BACK”.