

Suggested Guidelines for Beginners' Meetings

For the Newcomer:

1. Your primary obligation is to attend all four sessions. If you need assistance with transportation, your sponsor or sharing partner will help you make the necessary arrangements.
2. We will read the appropriate parts of the "Big Book" to you, specifically those passages that relate to taking the Twelve Steps.

If you have brought a "Big Book" and are able to follow along, please do so. We will announce each passage by page number and paragraph before we read it.

If you don't have a book, we ask that you participate by listening. We will guide you through all Twelve Steps as written by the "Big Book" authors. Please follow their directions, as we read them to you, and you too will recover from alcoholism.

3. Although a written inventory is part of the process, this doesn't mean you have to do the writing. The person who is sponsoring you through these sessions can help you write your inventory, or he or she can write it for you.

For the Sponsor or Sharing Partner:

1. Your time commitment to the newcomer is approximately four weeks. After that, both you and the newcomer will be expected to assist others through the Twelve Steps.
2. During the next month, call or visit the newcomer frequently to offer encouragement and moral support.
3. Attend the weekly Beginners' Meetings with the newcomer.
4. Offer to help the newcomer with his or her inventory. If necessary, fill out the checklist based on what the newcomer tells you. Keep in mind, the newcomer may not be able to complete the inventory without your help.
5. Share your guidance with the newcomer so he or she can see how two-way prayer is working in your life.
6. Based on your personal experience, answer any questions the newcomer may have about the A.A. program or the A.A. way of life.