

AA A BIG BOOK STUDY

MISSION STATEMENT

Alcoholics Anonymous is a book published in 1939 by the founders of our program. In it they tell us why they wrote this book .

“ To show others precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book .”pg. xiii

The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is a result of people who successfully remained sober by doing their best to follow the suggestions in this book , and carrying this message to other alcoholics , thus AA groups are formed.

The Organization Alcoholics Anonymous is a result of AA groups who in Unity are committed to the Service Structure and Corporation called Alcoholics Anonymous, ensuring that the AA message can successfully be carried to suffering alcoholics both present and future.

“Thus we grow . And so can you, though you be but one man with this book in your hand . We believe it contains all you need to begin.” pg162

The Set-Aside Prayer *

“Dear God, please set aside anything I think I know about myself, about my disease, about the Big Book, the 12 Steps, the Program, the Fellowship, the people in the fellowship, and all spiritual terms, especially you God; so that I may have an open mind and a new experience with all these things. Please help me see the Truth. Amen.”

* “The Set-Aside Prayer” (sometimes referred to as the “Lay-Aside Prayer”), as stated here, is not word-for-word stated in the Big Book; but statements and ideas that have inspired the prayer can be found in the Big Book on the pages given below and are highlighted in bold font. The words used above, excluding those in the brackets, comprise the prayer in its purest form. Feel free to adapt or modify the bracketed words as needed. Our spiritual advisors have found that this prayer seems to have a profound affect when used while taking someone through Steps 1 and 2 out of the Big Book.

Page 42, ¶ 2: “But the program of action, though entirely sensible, was pretty drastic. **It meant I would have to throw several lifelong conceptions out of the window.**”

Page 46, ¶ 1: “**We found that as soon as we were able to lay aside prejudice and express even a willingness to believe in a Power greater than ourselves, we commenced to get results...**”

Page 47, ¶ 1: “When, therefore, we speak to you of God, we mean your own conception of God. This applies, too, to other spiritual expressions which you find in this book. **Do not let any prejudice you may have against spiritual terms deter you from honestly asking yourself what they mean to you.**”

Page 47, ¶ 4: “Besides a seeming inability to accept much on faith, we often found ourselves handicapped by obstinacy, sensitiveness, and unreasoning prejudice. Many of us have been so touchy that even casual reference to spiritual things make us bristle with antagonism. **This sort of thinking had to be abandoned.** Though some of us resisted, **we found no great difficulty in casting aside such feelings.** Faced with alcoholic destruction, **we soon became as open minded on spiritual matters as we had tried to be on other questions.** In this respect alcohol was a great persuader. It finally beat us into a state of reasonableness. Sometimes this was a tedious process; **we hope no one else will prejudiced for as long as some of us were.**”

Page 49, ¶ 2: “We, who have traveled this dubious path, **beg you to lay aside prejudice,** even against organized religion.”

Page 58, ¶ 3: “**Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely.**”

Intro. Statement

Welcome to AA A Big Book Study, we are glad you have joined us to learn the suggested program of recovery from alcoholism as written in the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous.

We are an “ informal gathering” that meets every night at 7:00 CST. With our informal nature in mind this group allows ; ***crosstalk, double dipping, piggy backing, questions and answers.***

We ask that if you are in a crisis and feel the need to discuss your individual crisis, please stay after the meeting and someone will assist you. This group is here to discuss the reading at hand and share our experience, strength and hope, with that topic.

Each person will read about 3 paragraphs then share their thoughts and experience with what was read if they desire. Other participants may join the discussion by raising your hand and you will be called on to share. Once all shares are done the next reader will continue with more readings and more sharing. Shares will be limited to 3 minutes but remember ***double dipping*** is allowed , one may share or read as often as they like .

The Big Book is on the screen for those who don't have one yet, if you don't have the funds to purchase a hard copy of your own let us know after the meeting and we will send you one.

Tonight we begin our reading on page _____ with “”
and I've asked “.....” to lead us off tonight.

Prayer of St. Francis

Eleventh Step Prayer

Lord, make me a channel of thy peace--
that where there is hatred, I may bring love
that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness
that where there is discord, I may bring harmony
that where there is error, I may bring truth
that where there is doubt, I may bring faith
that where there is despair, I may bring hope
that where there are shadows, I may bring light
that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather
to comfort than to be comforted
to understand, than to be understood
to love, than to be loved.

For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.

It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.

It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.