



Home Groups

a roundtable discussion

hosted by the **Working With Others** group

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Date: Thursday, August 25

- the Last Thursday in August -

Time: 7:30-9pm

Place: Central Services

14 Sunnen Drive, Suite 144, St. Louis

Open sharing of home group experience

on topics including:

- ✓ What is a group versus a meeting?
- ✓ What makes a group healthy?
- ✓ How to attract new members
- ✓ Group problems and controversy
 - ✓ How to start a group
 - ✓ How to do a group inventory
 - ✓ Group projects and activities

Share your experience!

Learn from the experience of others!

Consider bringing delicious munchies!

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The next Last Thursday will be **September 29**. The roundtable topic will be "**Spirituality**".

Home Group Discussion Questions

These are just questions – not recommendations. We hope to hear diverse viewpoints and approaches.

What is a Home Group

1. What is a home group? What's the difference between a group and a meeting?
2. What is the purpose of your group? How does it carry out that mission? How did your group decide to do it that way?
3. What do you like about your group? What does it do well? How did you pick a home group?
4. What does your group do for newcomers? Is it easy for people who come to your group to find a sponsor? Fellowship? Literature? A service job?
5. Do you feel a bond with your group? How does your group attract and keep members?
6. Is there a relationship between sponsorship and healthy home groups?
7. What is a healthy group? How do you recognize one?

Group Activities

1. What jobs does your group have? How are people chosen? How often do they rotate?
2. Does your group do any service projects as a group? Are group members involved in service outside the group?
3. Does your group do fellowship activities as a group? Do group members participate in fellowship outside the group?
4. What are your meeting formats: Discussion? Speaker/story? Speaker/topic? Literature? Step? Tradition? Grapevine? Rotating format? Other? How was this decided? Any unusual features?
5. Do people make announcements at your meetings? How do you learn about news, events, & service opportunities?
6. What does your group do for newcomers? How did they decide to do this?
7. How early do people arrive before your meeting? How long do they stick around afterward?

Group Conscience

1. How often does your group hold a "business meeting" or "group conscience meeting"? How did your group reach this decision?
2. How many members does your group have? How many visitors? How many show up business meetings?
3. How long do your business meetings last? What is the typical agenda? What kinds of things do you discuss or vote on? Does everyone talk or just a few people?
4. What is the tone of the meeting? How do people feel about the group conscience meetings? Do you feel that a Higher Power speaks through the group conscience?

5. How are people selected for jobs in your group, and how often? What jobs are available in your group? What does your group do to help people prepare for their jobs?
6. How do group members learn the Traditions? Is there any exposure to AA history or the Concepts? How do group members find a service sponsor if they want one?
7. Who leads in your group - group chair? GSR? old-timer? popular sponsors? group conscience?

Starting a Group

1. How do you start a group? What are some of the decisions and actions? What is a good reason to start a group? When might it be better to just start a meeting?
2. How many people does it take to have a healthy, self-supporting group? What kinds of commitments are required? How much time and money, and for how long?
3. How do you pick a time and location for meetings? What makes a good time and location? What are some problematic times or locations? What must be considered – for instance, size of room, chairs, comfort level, noise level, temperature, bathroom, handicap-accessibility, rent, access to refreshments or a kitchen? What is an appropriate amount of rent to pay, and why?
4. How do you decide on a meeting format? What do you think about a group having more than one meeting? What must be considered – agenda, type of prayer, who participates, refreshments, length of meeting, breaks, chair arrangement, use of literature, open/closed...?
5. How do you find other committed people to help you get started? How do you attract people to attend the meeting? How do you attract people to join the group?

Miscellaneous Issues / Problems / Controversy

1. Does your group ever do a group inventory? How, and how often? Has it made any difference?
2. How does your group deal with controversy: Gossip? Rude, long-winded, drunk, or dangerous members? Predators or 13th-Steppers? Drug talk? Talk about politics or religion? The Lord's Prayer? Reimbursing GSR expenses? Foul language? Babysitting? Other?
3. What expenses does your group have? How does your group divide the money that is left after paying the expenses?
4. What would you do if you decide to move your meeting – or suddenly have to?
5. Is it okay to advertise your meeting at other meetings? In the newspaper or other public media?
6. Can you be a member of more than one group?
7. Does your group allow any alcoholic to join or does it have additional requirements for membership?
8. Why do groups die? Is it possible to turn that around and revive a dwindling group?
9. How is unity achieved in the group?