

Stepping Stones To Serenity Al-Anon Group Zoom Meeting Format for **WEEK 4**

Chair Instructions:

1. Before the meeting begins, ask ONE member to read the TRADITION OF THE MONTH & THE JUST FOR TONIGHTS.
2. Online Host will ask ONE member to read the 12 STEPS.
3. Ask a fellow member to act as Timekeeper.

7:00 PM: OPEN THE MEETING

Before we open the meeting, please take a moment to silence your phones if you are in person and if you are online, mute yourself and stay muted unless you are speaking.

This is THE STEPPING STONES TO SERENITY Al-Anon Meeting. My name is _____. I will be acting as your chairperson this evening.

Please join me in a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

• Silence •

*God, grant me the Serenity
To accept the things I cannot change
The courage to change the things I can
And the Wisdom to know the difference.*

Welcome

We welcome you to the Stepping Stones to Serenity Al-Anon Family Group and hope you will find in this fellowship the help and friendship we have been privileged to enjoy.

We who live, or have lived, with the problem of alcoholism understand as perhaps few others can. We, too, were lonely and frustrated, but in Al-Anon we discover that no situation is really hopeless, and that it is possible for us to find contentment, and even happiness, whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not.

We urge you to try our program. It has helped many of us find solutions that lead to serenity. So much depends on our own attitudes, and as we learn to place our problem in its true perspective, we find it loses its power to dominate our thoughts and our lives.

The family situation is bound to improve as we apply the Al-Anon ideas. Without such spiritual help, living with an alcoholic is too much for most of us. Our thinking becomes distorted by trying to force solutions and we become irritable and unreasonable without knowing it.

The Al-Anon program is based on the Twelve Steps (adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous) which we try, little by little, one day at a time, to apply to our lives along with our slogans and the Serenity Prayer. The loving interchange of help among members and daily reading of Al-Anon literature thus make us ready to receive the priceless gift of serenity.

Anonymity is an important principle of the Al-Anon program. Everything that is said here, in the group meeting and member-to-member, must be held in confidence. Only in this way can we feel free to say what is in our minds and hearts, for this is how we help one another in Al-Anon.

Statement of Purpose

Our meeting lasts for approximately 1 hour. During this hour, we come together for mutual aid. We come to learn how to live the Al-Anon program. The Group Conscience requests that all present refrain from discussing religion, other 12 Step programs, treatment programs, or using terms not generally referred to in Al-Anon. Such discussion is confusing, especially to the newcomer.

Introductions

We will now go around the room and have everyone introduce themselves, then the online Host will introduce all the online participants. My name is _____.

Steps, Tradition of the Month & the Just For Today's

(Designated person will share their screen with the Steps, Tradition & Just for Today's)

Ask online host to introduce the person reading the 12 Steps

I've asked _____ to read the Tradition of the Month & ALL of the Just for Today's..

Welcome Newcomer – Is there anyone here for their 1st, 2nd or 3rd Al-Anon meeting?

Chairperson to provide a short welcome to the newcomers.

Sponsorship is a vital tool in Al-Anon recovery. All those willing to be a sponsor, please raise your hand.

A Home Group member is someone who is committed to attending this meeting each week. If you have questions regarding the home group, please see one of the home group members. Would the home group members raise your hands?

7th TRADITION

The 7th Tradition reminds us that we are fully self-supporting. We pass the basket to cover our group expenses. For those online, please see the chat for information on how to send an electronic donation. If you are a newcomer in your first 3 meetings, please do not feel obligated to donate.

Announcements – *ask Secretary to read the announcements.*

Meeting Format

In this meeting, we have a different format every week in a monthly rotation.

Tonight's meeting is a:

BIRTHDAY MEETING *Sponsor & Celebrant will share for a total time of 7 minutes. (Timer)*

I've asked _____ to be the Timer for tonight's meeting.

Our meeting ends promptly at 8:00pm. After all birthday celebrants have shared, if there is time left, we will pull tickets in person and online the host will pick someone. In order to hear from as many people as possible, we ask you to limit your sharing to 2-3 minutes. The meeting leaders will help monitor the sharing time. Please do not be offended or embarrassed if we motion to you that your time is up. We would be happy to continue the conversation after the meeting.

7:55 PM: Chairperson will read the CLOSING.

In closing, I would like to say that the opinions expressed here were strictly those of the person who gave them. Take what you liked and leave the rest. The things you heard were spoken in confidence and should be treated as confidential. Keep them within the walls of this room and confines of your mind.

A few special words to those of you who haven't been with us long: Whatever your problems, there are those among us who have had them too. If you try to keep an open mind, you will find help. You will come to realize that there is no situation too difficult to be bettered and no unhappiness too great to be lessened. We aren't perfect. The welcome we give you may not show the warmth we have in our hearts for you. After a while, you'll discover that though you may not like all of us, you'll love us in a very special way--the same way we already love you.

Talk to each other, reason things out with someone else, but let there be no gossip or criticism of one another. Instead, let the understanding, love and peace of the program grow in you one day at a time.

Will all who care to, join me in the Lord's Prayer?

Al-Anon's 12 Steps

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

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Al-Anon's 12 Traditions (*Read only the Tradition of the Month*)

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants—they do not govern.
3. The relatives of alcoholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, may call themselves an Al-Anon Family Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend.
4. Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.
5. Each Al-Anon Family Group has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics. We do this by practicing the Twelve Steps of AA ourselves, by encouraging and understanding our alcoholic relatives, and by welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics.
6. Our Family Groups ought never endorse, finance or lend our name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim. Although a separate entity, we should always co-operate with Alcoholics Anonymous.
7. Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Al-Anon Twelfth Step work should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. Our groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. The Al-Anon Family Groups have no opinion on outside issues; hence our name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.

JUST FOR TONIGHT

- **Just for tonight**, I will be grateful. I will give thanks for the past day – its failures as well as its successes, its sadness as well as its joy and its pain as well as its pleasure. I will take comfort in knowing that every event and circumstance that occurred today can be used for my good and the good of others.
- **Just for tonight**, I will accept that I have done the best I could, remembering that my goal is spiritual progress and not perfection. I will let go of any expectation I had for this day, as well as any disappointment, shame or guilt I felt for not being perfect today.
- **Just for tonight**, I will be humble. I will give my shortcomings to a Power greater than myself, trusting that doing so can bring about changes in me that I could not bring about by myself.
- **Just for tonight**, I will not attempt to rectify today's mistakes or solve tomorrow's problems. I will remind myself that I am better able to receive guidance when my mind and body are rested and refreshed.
- **Just for tonight**, I will set aside my fears, frustrations and aspirations and take a few minutes to review the abundance that exists in my life today. I will place my future in the care of a loving God *of my own understanding*, trusting my needs will be met at a time and in a way that is best for all concerned.
- **Just for tonight**, I will release my loved ones to my Higher Power's care. I will free myself from trying to do the impossible – change the actions, attitudes or life of anyone other than myself.
- **Just for tonight**, I will set aside anger, judgement, resentment, envy and hurt feelings. I will ask my Higher Power to bless those whose actions I feel troubled by, and to change my attitude to one of love, acceptance and compassion.
- **Just for tonight**, I will find a safe, comfortable place to lie down and close my eyes. I will remind myself I am both deserving and in need of rest. I will look forward to awakening to the new day, feeling rested and ready to follow my Higher Power's guidance.