

# AA Group Discussion Guide: Use of Closing Prayers and Tradition Six

This guide summarizes the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office (G.S.O.) perspective on the use of closing prayers in A.A. meetings, especially regarding Tradition Six: “A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution.” It is intended to support group conscience discussions and promote inclusivity and unity.

## 1. A.A. is a Spiritual, Not Religious, Fellowship

“A.A. is not a religious organization. It has no dogma, creed, or theology. The Fellowship does not require belief in any particular conception of God.” This aligns with Tradition Six, ensuring that A.A. remains open to all who have a desire to stop drinking.

## 2. Autonomy and the Group Conscience (Tradition Four)

Each A.A. group is autonomous. Some close with the Lord’s Prayer; others prefer the Serenity Prayer, a moment of silence, or another expression of unity. The G.S.O. does not prescribe meeting closings but encourages groups to be mindful of inclusivity.

## 3. Concerns About Religious Identification

While many members are comfortable with the Lord’s Prayer, some newcomers may see it as Christian in nature. Since A.A. is not allied with any sect or denomination, some groups opt for more neutral closings to reflect the Fellowship’s spiritual—not religious—character.

## 4. Unity and Common Welfare (Tradition One)

Groups are encouraged to ask: “Does our closing practice welcome everyone who has a desire to stop drinking?” If a practice risks division or discomfort, a group may consider alternatives or rotation to uphold unity.

## Summary Statement (for reading or posting)

“While each A.A. group is autonomous, Tradition Six reminds us that A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, organization, or institution. Some groups close with the Lord’s Prayer as a matter of tradition, while others choose the Serenity Prayer, a moment of silence, or another expression of unity. The key question is whether our closing practice welcomes everyone who has a desire to stop drinking and reflects A.A.’s spiritual—not religious—nature.”

## For Group Discussion Notes:

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