



STUDY GROUP GUIDELINES

for ACIM CE Text Study Group, starting January 2021

Welcome to the group!

It is important that this group is a safe place in which everyone feels accepted and at ease about making a contribution as we study *A Course in Miracles* together. This needs to be a space in which I am able to support you as you learn. To facilitate this, I have compiled the following guidelines. I hope they will be largely unnecessary, but it's important that we are all clear on what the group *is*, and what it is *not*, and to be clear on what we can expect and what is expected of us.

- Our focus will be on studying the Complete and Annotated Edition (CE) of *A Course in Miracles*. We will be doing so in a way that is as faithful as possible to what the Course itself says (i.e. we will be studying what is written on the page).
- We will meet each week to discuss certain sections of the book. You are strongly encouraged to read the material ahead of time. While this is not mandatory, it will be an important part of your own learning experience and your ability to contribute to the group. Daily work with the Course is an essential part of its path and will give you much more than simply attending our weekly meetings could ever offer.
- We won't have time to discuss/compare other spiritual paths and teachings during our meetings. This is not to imply that they are not valid or worthwhile, but to keep us focused on the teachings of *A Course in Miracles*. We will have a lot to get through each week, and will have plenty to discuss without bringing in other teachings.
- It is inevitable that we will be sharing our experiences and the application of the Course teachings and practices in our lives, but please know that this is a *study* group rather than a *support* group. Our focus will be on the Text, and understanding what the Course is saying so that we can put it into practice in our lives.
- We're here to learn and, in the process, to treat one another with kindness, respect, and "complete courtesy" (T-3.VIII.6:2), focusing on the holiness, worth, and equality of each and every group member. Noticing any judgments or criticism arising in you within the group setting is a valuable opportunity to practice Course teachings.

- Please respect one another by being courteous, listening without interruption, correction, or interjecting your own opinions. Please monitor and notice any tendencies you might have to give advice, put someone down, or try to 'fix' them. If you notice this happening, it is another opportunity to pause and apply a Course practice.
- Please share your thoughts and your own experience by avoiding generalising statements such as, "We all think...". Our sharing is meant to be personal not generic; therefore, I would like to encourage you to use "I" rather than "we" or "you" statements. It is important that anything personal that is shared in the group is considered to be confidential.
- In order to stay on topic, please keep your comments, questions, and sharing related to the material we are discussing. If we're getting off track, I'll bring us back to the topic at hand. I may also remind everyone of a guideline, if this is necessary.
- We will start our meetings at 13:00 with a quiet moment. You are welcome to join a little early, and if you ever need to come to a meeting after it has started, please switch your microphone off.
- To help foster a sense of community and connection, participants are asked to use the video feature whenever possible, and to switch it off if you are moving around or there is a lot of activity in your environment which would be distracting to other group members.
- During discussions, you are welcome to use the 'raise hand' feature in Zoom, so that you can continue to fully listen to whoever is already speaking without worrying about getting my attention or talking over someone else.
- In the interests of inclusiveness and equalising participation, please be attentive to how much airtime you're taking. If you tend to share often, ask yourself, "What is it for?" Is it to serve your interests or the interests of the whole group? Is it on topic and does it further the purpose of learning?
- Please be considerate to others and fully present rather than doing other things during the meeting, especially if those things may be disruptive to other members of the group. (E.g. mute your microphone if there is a lot of background noise and you are not speaking.)

I hope that these common sense guidelines will help support our community as we embark on this journey through the Text together. If you would like to discuss any of the things that are listed - or there is anything you are concerned about - please get in touch.

With love,

Sarah

Certified Text Study Group Leader for the Complete & Annotated Edition of *A Course in Miracles*.

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