Awe-factory format

Music 1 or 2 songs

Select songs that have a message that speaks to addictions

(If possible, explain how the songs relate to addictions

prior to starting the meeting)

When we immerse ourselves in gospel music, then God recognizes that we really mean business. Whether we engage in music privately or publicly, we gain affirmation, we are motivated towards change, we receive encouragement, perhaps even insight. Music has the potential of relieving stress and easing sorrow. As we meditate on the words to various selections, we are given the ability to express our faith, our praise, our gratitude and love toward God. And then, most importantly, God is able to speak to us through such music!

Welcome

Prayer

Scripture reading

Mission statement

Introductions

Discussion

Closing statement for discussion

Select reading

Prayer

Music

Awe-factory welcome

Welcome to the Awe-factory. This group was formed in order to provide spiritual insight, fellowship, and support for those who want be cleansed of addictions and in turn celebrate sobriety in Christ. The Word of God expresses that anything that we place before God is an idol. The best reason for abstaining from addiction is in order to give God the glory that He deserves.

We meet each week to help one another in a reverential quest to seek the true and living God while dethroning the idols of addictions. We use the Bible to explain how addictions are exposed and disposed of. We recognize that a relationship with Jesus Christ offers the type of sobriety that is pleasing to God. God not only wants our abstinence from addictions but for us to be more like Christ, having the greatest intimacy with Himself and thereby being of the greatest use to God and man while giving to God the glory He deserves.

We ask that all participants

1. Respect yourselves and one another and above all respect God
2. Refrain from responding from each other’s comments directly

(for the sake of time)

1. Refrain from profanity
2. Keep the place clean
3. Be God’s awe-factory!

Let’s have a word of prayer followed by several scriptures, the Awe Factory’s mission statement, and our introductions!

Prayer (welcome person prays or asks for volunteer)

Scriptures (to be read each meeting)

1 Thessalonians 1:9

For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

2 Corinthians 5:15

And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

The Awe-factory’s mission

The Awe-Factory meeting is primarily for those who have problems with being distracted by addictions of any sort. Addiction brings a sense of awe. John Calvin said that “the heart is an idol factory.” Through Jesus Christ, we can become awe-factories of God. What is an awe-factory? An awe-factory is a heart that is so in awe of God that anything external doesn’t matter except drawing others into awe. It is here that we find the strongest combatant against addictions. A love for God and an appreciation for His blessings will ever remain the highest and stronger deterrent against addictions.

The Awe Factory is a completely spiritual approach to addictions. That is because we begin by defining addictions as idols. An idol is anything that you worship apart from God (or a false god.) How is it that we worship addictions?

1. By allowing them dominion over us
2. By giving them praise in our mind and on our lips
3. By making sacrifices for them
4. By putting our trust in them
5. By being in awe of them

We would now like for everyone to introduce themselves. You may identify yourself as an awe-factory in that we are all either in awe of God or in awe of addiction in one degree or another.

Discussion time at the Awe-factory

Discussion is to follow one of the chosen mediums.

1. A quality reading from a Christian source on addictions

(from our files or other sources)

2. A message

a. in person

b. a recording or video

3. A chosen topic

4. Open discussion (everybody just shares where they’re at)

Awe-factory select readings

Printed select reading are to be made available upon request. Readings are read before the close of the meeting. Each reading is randomly selected. The moderator should look for the opportunity to choose a reading that applies to the discussion. One or two reading may be chosen per meeting. Other reading may be obtained at a later date.

1. Sobriety is not just abstinence from addictions, but a total spiritual change, a renewed mind and changed heart. Being sober means to have the ability to make good choices and to use sound judgment. Addictions are a matter of misplaced worship (the worshipping of idols). The highest form of sobriety known unto mankind is found in Jesus Christ and anything that poses itself as sobriety, apart from Him, is only a façade.

2. The aim of the Awe-factory

1. To exalt Jesus Christ
2. To bring people to a saving knowledge of Christ.
3. To encourage repentance of all that displeases God.
4. To promote the joy and peace that is found in an active relationship with Christ.
5. To provide fellowship with others believers.
6. To allow God to work through us.

3. Arising out of our alienation from the Living God, addiction is bondage to the rule of a substance, activity, or state of mind, which then becomes the center of life, defending itself from the truth, and leading to further estrangement from God’s kingdom.

* + Edward T. Welch

4. **The Liabilities of Addiction**

1. Addiction is idolatry
2. Addiction is a poor use of energy
3. Addiction is a waste of time
4. Addiction is a waste of money
5. Addiction endangers your health
6. Addiction endangers your safety
7. Addiction endangers the safety of others
8. Addiction is non-productive
9. Addiction tears relationships apart
10. Addiction is a bad example to others
11. Addiction is the improper use of God’s creation
12. Addiction supports those who supply others with harmful substances
13. Addiction reinforces a false sense of security
14. Addiction is a stumbling block to others
15. Addiction gives a bad testimony

5. “The greatest way to overcome addictions is with a greater desire. Addictions are a problem of passion. The problem is not with the passion itself. The problem is with the object our passion calls us to pursue. So why does our passion cause us to run to an idol? Because we believe that idol is most attractive. The power to change is available in Christ, yet we don’t go there because the pleasure of the idol seems more desirous that Christ. However, if we can see Jesus Christ as more satisfying - which He is, we will never pursue another idol again in our lives.”

-Randy Smith

6. “Imagine having drug cravings subdued by the joy of knowing and obeying Christ. Imagine having temptations lose their allure because there is more pleasure in walking humbly with our God. Imagine waking up and strategizing how to please the God who loves you rather than where you will get your next drink.”

- Dr. Edward T. Welch