

## Opening Story, Unit 5: The Drunk

An Illinois State Patrolman stopped a drunk driver at about 3:00 AM. He was just about to give the drunk a field sobriety test when there was an accident on the opposite side of the interstate. *I've got to help the victims of this accident. I have your driver's license and registration right here. Just stay put till I get back.* The drunk nodded his head. With that, the cop jumped the center divider to help the victims of the traffic collision.

It didn't take the drunk long to figure out that he wasn't waiting. He got in the car and drove home. When he got home, he told his wife that there was a good possibility that the police would be knocking on their door at any moment. All she would have to do is tell the police that her husband had been asleep next to her all night long, and he promised this thing would *blow over*. The wife agreed.

About twenty minutes later, there was a knock on the front door. The wife answered the door. The Illinois State Patrolman gave the wife the whole story of how her husband had been stopped. The wife listened patiently and then scratched the back of her head. *You must be a mistaken officer. My husband has been asleep next to me all night long.* The cop scratched his head and asked if he could look in the garage. The wife said, *OK*. The policeman lifted the garage door and there in all its glory, sat the black and white patrol car with the lights still flashing.

How drunk do you have to be to get the wrong car? How drunk do you have to be to pick the car with the lights on top?

Alcohol is a drug. It is a mood-altering, personality altering drug. More teenagers are addicted to alcohol than all of the illegal drugs in the country combined. Let me say that again. More teenagers are addicted to alcohol than all of the illicit drugs in the country combined.

Why are *so many teens* addicted to alcohol? One reason is that *so many parents* take a casual view of teen drinking. Teens do not see drinking as a big deal. *Everybody's doing it. Why shouldn't I?*

The number one reason teens say they do not drink alcohol is parental disapproval.