

Alpha Team Guide

**Small
Group
Questions**



Session 1

**Is there
more to
life
than**

this

ADMIN

1. Ensure that you have everyone's name/info in the group. You may want to use name tags.
2. Provide/re-fill drinks and snacks before beginning the discussion
3. Welcome everyone to the group
4. Introduce yourselves and explain your roles
5. Explain the format for each session and the number of sessions
6. Highlight: no pressure, no follow up, no charge
7. Explain the format and purpose of the small group discussion
8. Reassure the guests that you always finish on time

ICEBREAKERS

These games will enable the group to remember each other's names and get to know one another.

NAME GAME

- 'Everyone think of a positive adjective that starts with the same letter as your first name' eg 'Jovial John' or 'Happy Helen' OR 'Everyone think of a famous person with the same first name as you' eg 'Justin Bieber', 'Sandra Bullock'
- Start with the person on your left. They must say their name and positive adjective or celebrity name. The next person must say their name and adjective or celebrity

- Each person must try and repeat all the names of the guests preceding them from memory. The host is the last person to go and repeats the names of everyone in the group
- Be quick to help any guests who might find this more difficult

DESERT ISLAND GAME (IF YOU HAVE TIME)

- ‘If you were stuck on a desert island and you could take one thing (not a person) with you and you already have the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare, what would you take?’
- OR ‘Which person from history would you like to be stuck in a lift with, and why?’

‘HOW AND WHY DID YOU END UP COMING HERE TODAY?’

- This gives the rest of the group permission to say what they really think. Try to draw more out of guests if they are a bit hesitant. Start with the guest you think is most reluctant/hostile about doing Alpha

‘IF IT TURNED OUT THAT GOD EXISTED AND YOU COULD ASK ONE QUESTION, WHAT WOULD IT BE?’

- ‘These are great questions’
- Write the questions down on a piece of paper with a view to coming back to them at the end of Alpha

Finish on time and carry on discussion elsewhere (eg, café) for those who want to.

Session 2

Who is **Jesus**

ADMIN

Welcome the group then go around and ask each person to introduce themselves briefly. Welcome any new guests, and ask them: 'How and why did you end up coming here today?' Add any new names and contact details and correct any mistakes from the previous week.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What makes you happy?
2. What do you think about Jesus?
3. If you had a chance to meet Jesus, how would you feel and what would you say to him?

Additional questions (if needed):

4. Before you heard the talk tonight, what was your concept of Jesus? Has it changed? If so, in what way?
5. What aspects of the evidence presented tonight did you find convincing/not convincing?

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Session 3

Why did Jesus die

ADMIN

Introduce any new guests. Add any new names and contact details and correct any mistakes from the previous session.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

This is often the session when the subject of ‘suffering’ arises (see *Searching Issues* chapter ‘Why Does God Allow Suffering?’).

1. What does the word 'forgiveness' mean to you?
2. Have you ever had to forgive anyone? How did you do it?
3. What does the word 'sin' mean to you?

Session 4

**How
can
I
have**

faith

Session 5

**Why and
how do I
pray**

ADMIN

This is a good session to encourage guests to attend the Alpha Weekend/Day.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever tried praying? How did it go?
2. What do you think about the idea of God answering prayer?
3. Finish with a short prayer (if appropriate)

Additional question (if needed):

4. In the talk, various reasons for praying are given. Which of these do you relate to and why?

Session 6

**Why and
how should
I read
the Bible**

ADMIN

Remind the group about the Alpha Weekend/Day. Ask someone who has benefited from a previous one to describe their experience.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Has anyone ever read any of the Bible? How did you find it?
2. How do you feel about the idea of God speaking through the Bible?
3. Has anyone got any practical suggestions about how to read the Bible? (at an appropriate point in discussion, you might recommend the Bible in One Year app: bibleinoneyear.org)

Additional question (if needed):

4. Have you read anything in the Bible that has challenged an aspect of your beliefs or behaviour?

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Session 7

How does God

guide us

Session 8

Who **is the Holy Spirit**

There is no small group discussion following this session.

Session 9

What **does the** **Holy Spirit do**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4–11.

1. What do you think each of these spiritual gifts refers to? (vv.8–10)
2. What is the gift of tongues? Does anyone have any experience of it?
3. How do you feel about the idea of God giving us supernatural gifts?
4. Does everybody have the same gifts? (vv.4–6)
 - Different gifts, works and service, but the same God
5. Why does God give spiritual gifts to people? (v.7)
 - For the common good
 - Not for our own glory
6. Mention that there will be an opportunity to hear more on this subject in the next session

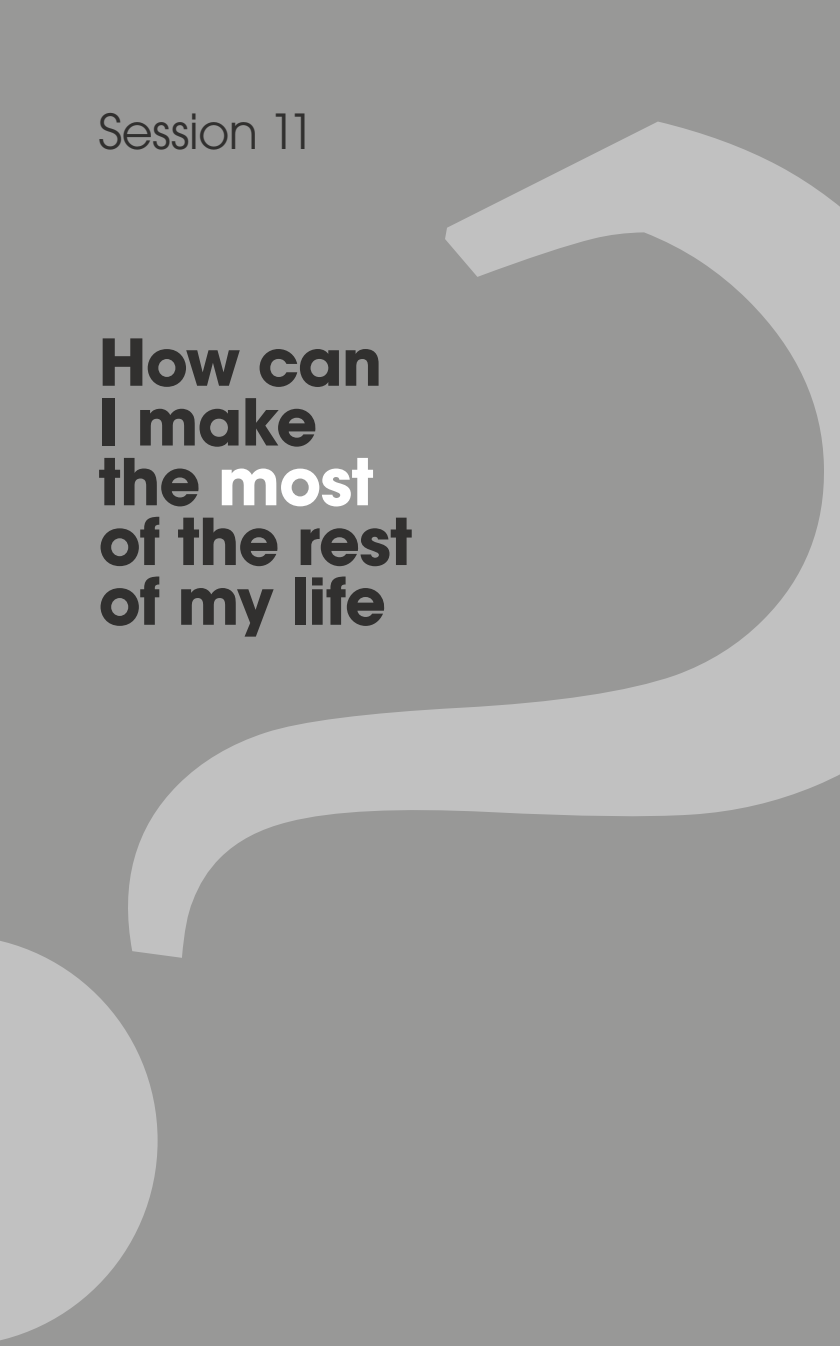
Session 10

How **can I be filled** **with the** **Holy Spirit**

This session is followed by a time of prayer ministry in a corporate setting. Spend time praying with any guests who would like prayer to be filled with the Holy Spirit (see Training 3).

Session 11

**How can
I make
the most
of the rest
of my life**



Ask each member of the group, starting with the person who will be most open, to describe their experience of the weekend/day. This will help encourage any others who want to, to share their experiences. If appropriate you may wish to offer an opportunity for the group to pray for one another.

Session 12

**How can I
resist evil**

ADMIN

Start the small group time by asking guests to share their experiences of the Alpha Weekend/Day. (Start with the person who will be most open/positive.) This gives the guests the opportunity to share theirs as well. It can be a great encouragement to the group. Remember to include those who did not go on the Weekend/Day in the discussion by asking them what they think about what they have heard.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Feedback from the weekend/day (see notes above)
2. Why do you think bad things happen?
3. Where does temptation come from?
4. How do you resist temptation?

Session 13

**How
and
why
should I
tell**

others



ADMIN

If the dates and details of your Celebration Wrap Party (last Alpha session) do not come up naturally in the discussion, this is a good time to mention them. Invitations can be handed out too. If possible, aim to pray together as a group at the end of this session.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Have you told any of your friends/family/colleagues at work that you are doing Alpha? What was their reaction?
2. If you did not know anything about Christianity, how would you like to be told about it?
3. What do you think/feel about the idea of telling others about your faith?

Session 14

**Does
God
heal
+ today**

ADMIN

Remind guests about the Alpha Celebration. Try to work out approximately how many people will be coming, including small group members and any guests they plan to invite.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

- If words of knowledge were given at the end of the talk, ask if anyone in the group thinks that a 'word of knowledge' may have been for them
- If not, ask your guests if there is a specific problem or illness for which they would like prayer for healing. At the same time ask if anyone would like prayer for any other issue. This is a good time to clear up any general issues about healing, so allow time for the group to discuss briefly before praying together
- Pray for guests according to the prayer ministry guidelines (Training 2). If there are lots of guests, divide into one group of men and one group of women at this stage
- Be prepared for someone who may want to give their life to Christ. Equally affirm those who do want to be prayed for and those who do not

Session 15

**What
about
the
church**

ADMIN

Remind the group about the Alpha Celebration or provide details about church on Sunday.

Ask the guests to complete the Alpha questionnaire to feed back on their experience.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Go around the group asking each person to summarize what they have learned and experienced over the past eleven sessions. (Try to start with the most open/positive person.)
2. Ask the group what they would like to do after Alpha. Try to encourage them to stay connected as a group
3. Ask each of them if there is anything they would like prayer for
4. Pray – it's a good idea to finish the final session with prayer

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

1. What comes to mind when you hear the words 'church' or 'Christian'?
2. Look back on the last eleven sessions. Has your view changed?
3. Looking forwards, in what way (if any) do you plan to continue what you've started on Alpha?

