

Session 2

Team Huddle Notes

WHO IS JESUS?

Alpha

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WELCOME

The following notes are designed to help you confidently lead a team huddle that will prepare your hosts and helpers each week, whether your Alpha is meeting in person or online.

This guide is designed to give you ideas and relevant information to share with your team. We don't recommend utilizing this as a script, but rather a set of talking points.

If you are leading Alpha in person, you may want to ask the worship leader to prepare a song of worship for the prayer time. If you are doing Alpha online, you can screen share a song of worship to help the team set their hearts on worship. YouTube is a great place to find videos of worship songs to share.

Plan on the team huddle to be roughly 20-30 minutes.

6-10 Minutes: Prayer

5 Minutes: Administration

10-15 Minutes: Small Group Coaching

If you are running your Alpha online, be sure to log in to MyAlpha and find this companion resource, Complete Guide to Alpha Online. You will find a list of other helpful links at the end of these notes.

We have created a separate pdf that includes icebreakers and discussion questions for your hosts and helpers. You can send it to your team in preparation for each week. Log in to MyAlpha "Materials" to find these host/helper notes.

Welcome new guests with radical hospitality. Pray for the love of the Father to touch each heart. Smile. Be kind. You are making a difference in many lives.

We are praying for you,

The Alpha Team

PRAYER WITH THE TEAM

The session talk is “Who is Jesus?”
John 14:6 *Jesus says, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”*

Let’s pray for the guests to come to know Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.

Notes

A reminder about praying out loud:

- This is a safe place to try, explore, and grow in prayer.
- Prayer does not need to be complex. We can pray honest, simple prayers from the heart.
- If praying out loud is too big of a step, just pray silently in your heart.

P - Pause

Invite the Holy Spirit to come, wait in silence, and welcome his presence.

R - Rejoice

Thank God:

- For the guests who came last week.
- For the new people who signed up this week.
- For the small group discussions that took place.
- For the Holy Spirit moving through our team.

A - Ask

Ask God for the guests:

- That guests from last week would return and new people would come tonight.
- That the small groups would be fun, barriers would come down, and questions would be asked!
- For friendships to spark among the guests.

Ask God for the team:

John 7:37-38 *“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”*

- For team members who have had a hard day and are feeling spiritually thirsty today.
- For continued wisdom and discernment for putting new guests in the right group.
- For hosts and helpers to have empathy and the peace of Christ, as they listen and hear from each of the guests.

Y - Yield

Sometimes wild things are said during this session’s group discussion. Say “yes to God” in how he is using all of it for his good purpose!

ADMIN



IN-PERSON



ONLINE

ADMIN

- We will have a team huddle each week. This enables us to keep you informed about important announcements and give you valuable tips for leading a small group. Thank you for making it a priority!
- Great job last week! Everything ran pretty smoothly, thanks to you all. We will likely have some more new guests tonight. Welcome any new guests and ask them, "How and why did you end up coming here today?"
- Update the registration list. Add new names, and correct any mistakes from the list last week.
- If you need to miss a week, please let us know as soon as possible. It is difficult for our team to find out the day of Alpha and extremely challenging right before the start time.
- **Introduce the Alpha weekend:**

  The Alpha weekend will be _____.

  The Alpha weekend will be mentioned by the emcee, but please follow up with your small group to see if they have any questions. We will talk about it over the next few weeks before we begin registration.
- For larger Alphas (groups of over 30 people), you may want to consider incorporating worship songs into your Alpha in preparation for more worship that will happen at the Alpha weekend. Start with one or two songs that focus on the character of God. This can either be live worship or a video of a worship song.

How to follow up:

(In-person)

- If either a host or helper connected with a guest and shared their number, it is a sign of a good connection to send them a text to ask how they are doing and invite them to come back to Alpha the following week.
- It is okay for the main team leader to send a reminder email the day before the next session to remind the guest of the time and location, along with any other specifics.

(Online)

- Alpha should be no pressure, but we want people to feel loved and cared for. You may want to follow up with a guest if they missed week 2's session. This is what it could look like:

Session Leaders:

Please prepare the list of guests and their email addresses for each small group host. Lead hosts will be asked to send an email to any of the guests who did not come back for week 2. This is an individual email, not a group email. Here is a "sample" email:

Good morning/afternoon/evening _____ (insert guest name),

This is _____ (insert your name) from your Alpha group. I just wanted to let you know that we missed you last week. I really enjoyed meeting you and appreciated _____ (it is nice if you have something specific like something they shared about, a joyful attitude, being open, etc.). I hope you will be able to join us for the next session! Here is a link just in case you need it:

Have a great day!

HOST AND HELPER NOTES

IN-PERSON ONLINE

SMALL GROUP COACHING

BIG IDEA

The topic, "Who is Jesus?," can be more intellectual than next week's session, "Why did Jesus die?" where we cover things like suffering and forgiveness. This can be one of the hardest sessions of Alpha. We are welcoming new guests and jumping straight into a conversation about Jesus. Every session is easier from here.

1. As you watch the video, write down anything that could be a good question. Encourage your group to do the same each week.
2. Recap people's names from last week. See if someone is willing to try to go around and say everyone's name and adjective.

   (Both online and in-person) Have new people introduce themselves, share why they came to Alpha, and an interesting fact about themselves.

   (Online) Ask people to change their name in their video window to reflect their name from last week.
3. Review Alpha Ground Rules:
   - You don't have to talk if you don't want to, but we'd love to hear everyone's thoughts.

     (online) The chat function is fair game. Feel free to use this to share if you're more comfortable.
   - Any question or comment is welcome. Please be brief and respectful.
   - Respect each other by listening and allowing different opinions. Feel free to ask each other follow-up questions if you'd like to hear more from them.
   - Please keep all information confidential when you leave this group.



Notes

4. Alpha team: Don't overpower the conversation, and refrain from stories that have a religious theme. Remember that the small group dynamic needs to feel like the ball example, where the guests do the bulk of the talking. (You may want to summarize or log in and review this clip at the 14 minute mark from the Small Group training video.)
5. It is important to encourage anyone who shares by saying, "That's a really interesting point" and "Thank you so much. What do other people think?" This draws out people and keeps the conversation moving.
7. The most important thing is that people feel loved and respected. One of the ways we do this is to listen. Genuinely listening to what others are saying shows that we are interested while helping the guests get to know each other.
8. Your job is to draw out people's honest thoughts, fears, and apprehensions. Even if someone is a "regular churchgoer," they may have never had a safe place to voice questions like, "How do we know Jesus really lived? What proof is there?"



GROUP GOAL
To seamlessly blend the guests from last week with any new guests this week.

PERSONAL GOAL
Ensure that each person feels heard and respected, no matter their opinion, background, or faith journey.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:



In-person Icebreaker:

Do you have a favorite t-shirt or piece of clothing? What is it and why?



Online Icebreaker:

Grab one item within reach or in the room with you. What significance does that have for you?

1. What did you think (or feel) about the talk tonight?
2. This question was asked, "What makes you happy?" What sorts of things make you happy in life?
3. What do you think about Jesus? What thoughts do you have about him?
4. If you had a chance to meet Jesus, how would you feel and what would you say to him? What would you want that encounter to be like?

Additional questions (if needed):

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

Closing: If the conversation seems to lag for the night, feel free to transition to talking about what everyone is going to do that coming week. Don't be afraid of silence, but try to end on a positive note. Do **not** end the group time with prayer.

FOR HELPERS:

1. As a helper, your role is very important. You might want to share an occasional thought to keep the conversation going, but your focus should not be on speaking. Instead, silently pray and watch for anyone who might look like they have something to say.
2. (Online) Helpers can also utilize the chat feature to individually encourage people — to thank them for sharing or let them know you appreciate their insight. Be careful not to distract people with a long message.
3. If a few guests immediately take the conversation too deep with "churchy" answers, the helper can speak up as a bridge for those who have doubts. Here is an example of what we mean:

   Host: "What do you think about Jesus?"

   Guest: "He's my Lord and Savior, my everything..."

   Helper: "I don't know. Sometimes I think it can be normal to wonder if the stuff in the Bible is made up. I know I have had thoughts like that. I'd be curious to hear what other people think about Jesus."
4. Helpers can respond with a question, struggle, or comment on the video if the conversation begins to lag.
5. Helpers can observe if people might have something to add, and invite them to comment with, "John, were you going to say something?"

We are **not** here to answer questions tonight. The guests are still getting a feel for the group, and they are going to be naturally looking for the "authority" who is the "leader." We need to make sure that the hosts and helpers are not establishing themselves as the "answer people." We are here to facilitate the conversation so that the guests feel safe to share.



Notes

Helpful links: Start by logging in to MyAlpha

1. Alpha Best Practice Videos - https://run.alphausa.org/training/7-best-practices
2. Learning Center - https://run.alphausa.org/training
3. Complete Guide to Alpha Online - https://run.alphausa.org/training/running-alpha-online-new/complete-guide-to-alpha-online-pdf-new

Thank you for running Alpha! We are praying for you and your team.

We'd love to hear from you.

Please contact **1-800-Do-Alpha** or email us at **questions@alphausa.org** if you need any further information or support.

We'd also love to hear your Alpha stories. Submit your stories at **alphausa.org/share-your-story.**

