Session 3

Team Huddle Notes

WHY DID JESUS DIE?



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 to help the team set their hearts on worship. YouTube has a great assortment of worship songs and videos that you can share during this time.

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

6-10 Minutes: Prayer

5 Minutes: Administration

10-15 Minutes: Small Group Coaching

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.

Alpha is running all over the world. Check out these stories of transformed lives.

If you have a guest in your group who prefers written form, there are small booklets created for each week of Alpha. You can download or purchase them here.

We are praying for you,

The Alpha Team

PRAYER WITH THE TEAM

The session talk, "Why did Jesus die?", is all about forgiveness.

Psalm 103:8-12 *"The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."*

Pray for the guests to begin to experience the freedom of God's forgiveness.

P - Pause

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

R - Rejoice

Thank God:

- For his love—that he would die in our place.
- For making us clean by the blood of Jesus—he came not to rub it in, but to rub it out!
- That whatever we've done, we can be forgiven.

A - Ask

Ask God for the guests:

- That they would learn more about themselves, about Jesus, and specifically why he died.
- That he would bless the group discussion. Pray specifically for one person that you are excited about and one person who is more vulnerable or hurting.
- That they would continue to be amazed that this is church!

Ask God for the team:

- For a fresh revelation of your own forgiveness right now. Receive his forgiveness.
- For ears to hear and eyes to see how God is already at work in the lives of the guests.
- For God to use the hosts and helpers in their questions.

Y - Yield

Is your group not quite what you expected? Set aside any doubts, yield to God, and pray in faith for God to work in this group.

Notes

ADMIN



IN-PERSON



ONLINE

- If your group has a new guest, 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.
- Continue to pray by name daily for your guests and small group leaders.
- Save the date for the Alpha weekend. We will continue talking about it this week. Mark your calendars for _____. It's **really** important for all team members to attend.
- 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 an email the day before the next session to remind the guest of the time, location, and any other specifics.

(Online)

- We don't chase people who choose not to return to Alpha, but we want to show concern. If a guest came to week 2 but not week 3, take a moment this week to send a quick email.

Session Leaders:

Be sure to have a list of guests and their emails ready for each small group host. Share the email content with the hosts, so they can reach out to any guests who didn't make it. If you feel comfortable sharing your contact info with the guests, do so and let them know you would love to connect with them 1:1 outside the group if they would like (and if you are comfortable).

You can use this as a starting point:

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 really 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 in case you need it:

Have a great day!

Notes

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

HOST AND HELPER NOTES

IN-PERSON ONLINE

SMALL GROUP COACHING

BIG IDEA

In the topic, “Why did Jesus die?”, we’ll be talking about the cross and examining areas of guilt, forgiveness, and addiction.

1. Use the beginning of small group time to build connections and relationships. Introduce people to each other, and welcome new guests. Keep the conversation non-religious, and work to engage guests in conversation with each other.
2. The goal is **not** to go through all of the questions in order. The goal is to engage and stimulate conversation about the topic!
3. Don’t skip the icebreaker question: If you could go anywhere in the world for the weekend, where would you like to go? (This icebreaker leads to the theme of freedom and will help you get to know people a little more).
4. Remember, no teaching in groups. The goal is to encourage guests to talk, so help them feel safe to express themselves in an open and honest way. We want to hear what they believe during the small group time.
5. Throw questions back to the group, such as, “Interesting! What does everyone else think?” A few key lines you may want to use to guide the group: “The problem of suffering is definitely a difficult one. In a later session of Alpha, we will talk about that a bit more deeply as well. What do you all think?” or, “I’m sorry you experienced that. It must have been very difficult.”



Notes

6. Trust the process!
7. Keep upping your hospitality game! What else could your team do?

   (Online) As groups grow closer, consider inviting guests to wear a crazy hat, eat their favorite dessert during Alpha, or share about a significant item from home.

   (In-person) During the mealtimes, ask questions about the guest's lives and make note of their kid's (or dog's) names. Following up with questions and using their names is a powerful way to show you care.
8. Nicky Gumbel wrote a book called *Searching Issues* that tackles many of the core questions that come up on each week of Alpha. You may buy the book here or download it for free here.
9. Speaking of books, in the Alpha Guide at the end of each session, there is a recommended reading list. You can direct guests to read more about a topic that is interesting to them.



GROUP GOAL

Greater group bonding. Give people space and permission to reflect. This can be a week that hits the heart.

PERSONAL GOAL

Pray that each guest becomes aware that they are loved by God and that forgiveness is available.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Icebreaker:

If you could go anywhere in the world for the weekend, where would you like to go?

1. How do people feel about the idea of forgiveness? What is it?
2. What did you think about the stories of forgiveness during the video?
3. Have you ever had to forgive anyone? How did you do it? (This is more personal but it's often easier to talk about someone else doing wrong to you).
4. Has anyone ever forgiven you? What did it feel like? (This is often more difficult, but sometimes you find people are able to open up and talk about things they've done wrong).
5. Where does guilt come from? What's the difference between false and real guilt, and why is that significant?

Other topics that may be discussed are:

- Death
- Why does God allow suffering?

Remember to set the bar very low for small group discussions and allow people to talk.



FOR HELPERS:

1. During times you are quiet during discussion, please be in prayer for our guests.
2. (In-person) A smile or nod to a more quiet guest can help them to share their thoughts. Never call on a guest to speak, but you can say, “Does anyone on this side of the room have something to add?”
3. (Online) Remember that you can help draw out some of the quieter guests by utilizing the chat.

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.**

