

Is There More to Life Than This?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 Introduce guests to Alpha. What is it? Who is it for? How long does it last? What's the format?
- 02 Try to always finish on time.
- 03 Remember that the first session is different from others; it's more about getting to know each other. In future weeks we'll have more discussion about the session's talk.

Discussion Questions:

- Start getting to know each other.
Try an icebreaker: e.g The Name Game or Desert Island/Stuck in a lift.
- How and why did you end up coming here today?
- If it turned out that God existed and you could ask one question, what would it be?

Don't Forget:

- We hope you enjoyed this evening, it's a bit different from other weeks. If you're feeling a bit frustrated, don't worry - there will be lots more time for discussion next week
- Next session's talk: **Who Is Jesus?**

Books

What's So Amazing About Grace? – Philip Yancey
The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming – Henri J. M. Nouwen
Searching Issues: Does Religion Do More Harm Than Good? – Nicky Gumbel



Who is Jesus?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 The small group works best if everyone has the chance to participate. Explain how it should work and that there's no pressure to talk, but that everyone should feel able to. Remind the group of the ball game.
- 02 Try to always finish on time.

Discussion Questions:

- If there are new guests introduce them to the group, ask new people to say their name and how they came to be here.
- What makes you happy?
- What do you think about Jesus?
- What do you feel about Jesus?

Don't Forget:

- Next session's talk: [Why Did Jesus Die?](#)

Books

Mere Christianity – C. S. Lewis
Jesus Is ____. – Judah Smith
Orthodoxy – G. K. Chesterton



Why Did Jesus Die?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 Welcome any new guests. Introduce everyone and remind guests that small groups are at the heart of Alpha.
- 02 Mention the Weekend Away or Alpha Day.
- 03 Suffering and other religions are issues that frequently come up on this session. See Nicky Gumbel's *Searching Issues* book or the booklet *Searching Issues: Why Does God Allow Suffering?* for guidance.

Discussion Questions:

- What is forgiveness?
- Have you ever had to forgive anyone?
How did you do it?
- Has anyone ever forgiven you?
- What do you think about the idea of God's forgiveness?

Don't Forget:

- Next session's talk: [How Can I Have Faith?](#)

Books

The Cross of Christ – John Stott
Searching Issues: Why Does God Allow Suffering? – Nicky Gumbel
Mud, Sweat and Tears – Bear Grylls
Why Jesus? – Nicky Gumbel



How Can I Have Faith?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 Remind the group about the Weeked Away or Alpha Day. Let them know when they can book.
- 02 Last week's talk was 'Why Did Jesus Die?' If anyone missed it, they can catch up on run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources

Discussion Questions:

- What does faith mean to you?
- Is faith a blind leap or something more substantial?
- What do you make of the evidence of Christianity?

Don't Forget:

- Next session's talk: [Why & How Should I Pray?](#)

Books

Searching Issues: Is Faith Irrational? – Nicky Gumbel
The Reason for God – Tim Keller
The Hiding Place – Corrie Ten Boom



Why & How Should I Pray?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 Encourage guests to start booking on to the Weekend Away or Alpha Day. Mention costs and options for busarries if you are offering them.
- 02 If you are offering busarries to those who can't afford the cost, don't forget to mention this to your group.
- 03 Last session's talk was, How Can I Have Faith? If anyone missed it, they can catch up on run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources

Discussion Questions:

- Has anyone ever tried praying? How did you get on?
- What do you think about the idea of God answering prayer?
- Finish with a short prayer (if appropriate).

Don't Forget:

- Next session's talk: [Why & How Should I Read the Bible?](#)

Books

God on Mute – Pete Greig
Too Busy Not to Pray – Bill Hybels



Why & How Should I Read the Bible?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 Encourage guests to book on to the Weekend Away or Alpha Day. Mention costs and options for busarries if you are offering them.
- 02 Work out how everyone is getting to the weekend and get contact details for your guests.
- 03 Last session's talk was, Why and How Do I Pray? If anyone missed it they can catch up on run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources

Discussion Questions:

- Has anyone ever read any of the Bible?
How did you find it?
- Has anyone ever used a modern translation of the Bible?
- How do you feel about the idea of God speaking through the Bible?

Don't Forget:

- Next session's talk:
[How Does God Guide Us?](#)

Books

Why Trust the Bible? – Amy Orr-Ewing
30 Days – Nicky Gumbel
The Bible – *The Message* is an accessible version

Read the Bible in One Year daily commentary by Nicky Gumbel at alpha.org/bioy or download the BIOY app from the App Store.



How Does God Guide Us?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 Encourage guests to book on to the Weekend Away or Alpha Day. Mention costs and options for busarries if you are offering them.
- 02 Work out how everyone is getting to the weekend and get contact details for your guests.
- 03 Last session's talk was, Why and How Should I Read the Bible? If anyone missed it they can catch up on run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources

Discussion Questions:

- In the last few weeks has anyone had a sense that God might have been guiding them?
- How do you feel about the idea of God having a plan for you?

Don't Forget:

- Next session's talk: [How Can I Resist Evil?](#)

Books

Listening to God – Joyce Huggett
Chasing the Dragon – Jackie Pullinger



How Can I Resist Evil?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 Hear back from those who went on the Alpha weekend or day – how did they find it? Give guests the opportunity to express what God might have done in their lives. Start with a positive person!
- 02 Take the opportunity to ask your group about their individual experience of the weekend.
- 03 Last week's talk 'How does God guide us?' If anyone missed it they can catch up on run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think bad things happen?
- Where does temptation come from?
- How do you resist temptation?

Don't Forget:

- Next session's talk: [Does God Heal Today?](#)

Books

The Screwtape Letters – C. S. Lewis
Café Theology – Mike Lloyd



Why & How Should I Tell Others?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 Mention the Alpha Day, if applicable.
- 02 Last week's talk was 'How Does God Guide Us?' If anyone missed it they can catch up on run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources

Discussion Questions:

- Has anyone told their friends / family / colleagues at work that they are doing Alpha? What was their reaction?
- If you didn't know anything about Christianity, how would you like to be told about it?
- If you haven't already, pray as a group.

Good Points to End on:

- Next session's talk: [Does God Heal Today?](#)

Books

Lord Help My Unbelief – John Young
Searching Issues – Nicky Gumbel



Does God Heal Today?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 Remind guests about your small group reunion. If you haven't already arranged one, this is the perfect time. What would people like to do?
- 02 Last session's talk was, 'Why & How Should I Tell Others?' If anyone missed it they can catch up on run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources

Discussion Questions:

- Hear back from those on the weekend, start with the most encouraging person.
- Ask if anybody responded to any of the words of knowledge.
- Offer to pray for healing, make sure everyone in the group gets a chance to be prayed for.
- Offer to pray for everyone who wants prayer in turn.

Don't Forget:

- Next session's talk: [What About The Church?](#)

Books

Dancer Off Her Feet – Julie Sheldon
Power Evangelism – John Wimber



What About The Church?

Introduction Pointers

- 01 If you have organised a small group reunion in the next couple of weeks, confirm details.
- 02 Remember to hand out your guest questionnaire, if you're doing one, and ask guests to fill it in if they're happy to.
- 03 Last session's talk was, Does God Heal Today? If anyone missed it they can catch up on run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources

Discussion Questions:

- Has anyone told their friends / family / colleagues at work that they are doing Alpha? What was their reaction?
- How have you got on during the term?
- What would you like to do now?
(Connect group, Sunday Service, School of Theology)
- Is there anything you'd like to pray for?
Close in prayer.

Don't Forget:

- If you want to watch this session's talk again, you can catch up on run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources

Books

Questions of Life – Nicky Gumbel
Lord, Help My Unbelief – John Young

Music

Set Apart – Worship Central
10,000 Reasons – Matt Redman
Everything in Colour – Ben Cantelon

