



ALPHA ONLINE 2020



**HOSTS &
HELPERS
GUIDE**

WEEK 3
Why did Jesus
die?

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

The Discussion Guide has four parts:

ICEBREAKERS - Ideas to start making people feel comfortable before the video.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - Main questions you can use for discussion.

EPISODE SUMMARY - A short summary that highlights the big ideas, key quotes and scriptures.

TIPS & GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING DISCUSSION - Guidelines for hosts and helpers as they lead discussion each week. Read this at least once and maybe a second or third time during Alpha as a reminder.

Icebreakers (before video)

See some icebreaker or online games ideas at the end of this guide.

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 today?'

Discussion Questions (after video)

- It is often easy to start with: "Did anything from the episode stand out to you?"
- This is often the session when the subject of 'suffering' arises.

1 HOW DO YOU SEE SIN IN THE WORLD AROUND YOU?

- Where do you see evil in your community, your city, your country, the world?
- How has sin affected you personally?

2 WHAT DOES THE WORD 'FORGIVENESS' MEAN TO YOU?

- Think about a time you had to forgive someone. Why did you do it?
- Why do you think the message of forgiveness is so central to Christianity?

3 HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO FORGIVE ANYONE?

4 HAS ANYONE HAD TO FORGIVE YOU?

Additional questions (if needed):

5 HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE IDEA OF GOD FORGIVING YOU?

6 WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CLAIM THAT JESUS IS THE SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM OF SIN?

Episode Summary

BIG IDEA

This session is all about the question, why did Jesus die? Although sin has real consequences, Jesus' death and resurrection are the solution to the problem of sin. The cross shows us that God loves us, death has been defeated, the power of sin has been broken and we can have a relationship with our heavenly Father.

KEY QUOTES & SCRIPTURES

The Son of God... loved me and gave himself for me.

GALATIANS 2:20

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

ROMANS 3:23

Jesus' death and resurrection are God's solution to the problem of sin.

...the Lord has laid on him (on Jesus) the iniquity of us all.

ISAIAH 53:6

God loves you, Jesus died for you, and through the cross, we are invited into a relationship with God.

Tips & Guidelines for Hosting Discussion

Discussion in small groups is the most important part of every Alpha session. Hosting a discussion on Alpha is not about re-teaching any of the content from the episode – the goal is to create a safe place where everyone can share openly and honestly about their thoughts and feelings and ask questions. Remember, the discussion guide is just a guide. Use these questions to spark conversations and bring it back on track when needed.

Alpha is a journey. The more time you spend together as a group, the more people will feel free to open up and share their opinions.

GUIDELINES FOR THE GROUP

- You don't have to talk if you don't want to
- You can ask or say just about anything
(as long as you aren't putting other people down or making it so others can't talk)
- Respect each other by listening and welcoming different opinions
- Keep things confidential when you leave the group

TIPS FOR HOSTS & HELPERS

- Remember names
- Pray
- Be committed
- Show up early to welcome guests
- Stay long enough to chat with guests afterwards
- Keep the conversation alive and balanced
- Be encouraging
- End on time
- If time allows, debrief with your Alpha team to celebrate wins, chat about challenges and share

Icebreakers

Laughter is food for the soul! Here are some fun icebreakers you can use each week:



- Do you squeeze the toothpaste tube or roll it? What's the advantage of your method?
- When was the last time you square-danced or line-danced? Rate your dancing ability on a scale of 1 to 10.
- What's one fashion trend you hope never comes back? Which ones have come back that you wish hadn't?
- What magic tricks do you know? Perform one now.
- Do you have a collection? If so, what do you collect and why?

- Are you more inclined to "build your own empire" or "unleash the potential of others"? Explain.
- What's your preference: plane, train, boat, automobile, horse, or camel?
- What was your favorite recess activity: dodgeball, kickball, foursquare, hopscotch, freeze tag or jump rope?
- What's your pick: hang glide, sky dive, bungee jump, hot air balloon, or kite?
- What is one of your favorite souvenirs brought back from your travels? Where do you keep it?

- What is your favorite bumper sticker or t-shirt slogan?
- As a child, did you ever peek into a wrapped gift before you actually received it? Did you ever get caught? Explain the details.
- What room in your house best reflects your personality? Why?
- Who's the most famous person you've ever met? What famous person would you most like to meet?
- What's your favorite kind of candy?

- What's the wackiest belief you held as a child?
- Which movies have you watched over and over again?
- What do you admire most about your best friend?
- What items do you currently have stored in the trunk of your car?
- Are you an early bird or a night owl? Why?