



ALPHA ONLINE 2020



**HOSTS &
HELPERS
GUIDE**

WEEK 5

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

WHY AND HOW SHOULD I READ THE BIBLE?

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)

This week's icebreakers relate to the episode's topic.

IMAGINE YOU ARE STRANDED ON A DESERTED ISLAND AND YOU CAN ONLY BRING THREE THINGS WITH YOU. WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

More ideas:

- If your house was burning down, and all your family and pets and phone were totally safe, what one thing would you take with you?
- What is your favourite book? (If someone says the Bible, ask for their second favourite book.)

Discussion Questions (after video)

- It is often easy to start with: "Did anything from the episode stand out to you?"

1 WHAT DO YOU THINK THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE IS TODAY?

- Do you think the ideas in the Bible are old-fashioned or outdated?
- Do you think the Bible is worth reading today? Why or why not?

2 HAS ANYONE EVER TRIED READING ANY OF THE BIBLE OR HEARD IT BEING READ? HOW DID YOU FIND IT?

- Do any quotes from the Bible stand out or have special meaning to you?
- Have you ever heard somebody teach from the Bible and you connected with it?

3 HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE IDEA OF GOD SPEAKING TO US THROUGH THE BIBLE?

Additional questions (if needed):

4 WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST QUESTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO THE BIBLE?

5 HAVE YOU READ ANYTHING IN THE BIBLE THAT HAS CHALLENGED AN ASPECT OF YOUR BELIEFS OR BEHAVIOUR?

6 WHY WOULD GOVERNMENTS NOT WANT THE BIBLE IN THEIR COUNTRY?

Episode Summary

BIG IDEA

The Bible is the primary way God speaks to us and reveals himself to us. The Bible points us to Jesus and gives us instructions for living. Through the Bible, we're invited to connect with God and build a day-to-day relationship with Jesus.

KEY QUOTES & SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17

God's word is our highest authority for what we believe and for how we live.

The Bible is a guide – it shows us how to live and it gives us boundaries.

The purpose of the Bible is to bring us into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

...these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

JOHN 20:31

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 prayer requests