



# ALPHA ONLINE 2020

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**HOSTS &  
HELPERS  
GUIDE**

**How does  
God guide  
us?**

# HOW DOES GOD GUIDE US?

**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)

**WHAT IS THE CRAZIEST/MOST RANDOM ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED?**

- What is the best advice you have ever received?
- What is the worst advice you have ever received?

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

## Discussion Questions (after video)

- It is often good to start with: “Did anything from the episode stand out to you?”

### 1 WHERE DO YOU GO FOR GUIDANCE?

### 2 HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT PURPOSE?

- Do you think there is a bigger purpose for your life?
- How do you feel about the idea that God has a plan for your life?

### 3 OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, HAS ANYONE HAD A SENSE THAT GOD MIGHT BE GUIDING THEM?

**Additional questions (if needed):**

### 4 WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE DIFFERENT WAYS THE VIDEO SUGGESTS GOD GUIDES US?

- Have you experienced guidance in any of these ways before?
  1. Commanding scripture
  2. Through his compelling Spirit
  3. The counsel of the saints
  4. Common sense
  5. Circumstantial signs

# Episode Summary

## BIG IDEA

There is a God who loves you and He has a purpose for your life. God guides us through our relationship with him, by speaking in five main ways: Through commanding scripture, through his compelling Spirit, by the counsel of the saints, common sense and circumstantial signs.

## KEY QUOTES & SCRIPTURES

God's purpose for us is to know His love for us and to respond by loving Him. We find the meaning and purpose of life in a love relationship with God. Then we are called to love others.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

**EPHESIANS 2:10**

You are not saved by doing good,  
but in order to do good.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

**PSALM 32:8**

Don't judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I've fallen down and got back up again.

**NELSON MANDELA**

God works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose

**PHILIPPIANS 2:13**

In your heart you plan your course,  
but the Lord determines your steps.

**PROVERBS 16:9**

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him,  
and he will act.

**PSALM 37:5**

## 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

# 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?