
Church:

What about the Church?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Discussion Guide has three parts:

- Discussion Questions
- Episode Summary
- Tips & Guidelines for Hosting Discussion

Q1

How have you enjoyed Alpha so far? Any highlights?

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- What has stood out to you most about your experience on Alpha so far?
- Did anything surprise you about your experience on Alpha?

Q2

What has your experience been with the Church?

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- When you think about the Church, what questions come to mind?
- What are some misunderstandings that people have about the Church?
- What do you think about the idea that “church is a people, not a building”?

Q3

If this pool represents a relationship with God, which character do you identify with the most?

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- Has your answer to this question changed from the beginning of your time on Alpha?
- Is there a missing character? What other person might you add to describe where you are at?
- What do you think it would look like for you to take a step into the pool? Is anything holding you back?

MORE QUESTIONS

(Lots of groups leave 10-20 minutes after the episode is done for more conversation.)

- How do you feel about this episode? Did anything from the episode stand out to you?
- In this session, 5 pictures represented the church: friends, family, home, body of Jesus, and love.
 - Do any of those images stand out to you?
 - Is there an idea or image that raised some questions for you?
- The Church is so diverse in its expression. How can such a global and diverse Church be united?
- Now that Alpha is coming to an end, how would you summarize your experience?
- Is there anyone in your life that you would want to invite to Alpha in the future?
- Looking forward, how can you continue the conversation and the journey you’ve started on Alpha?
- End your final small group time in prayer.

Episode Summary

BIG IDEA

The Church is the family of God. It's people, not a building. It's a movement of hope, love and justice. We are all invited to live out our faith in community with other believers. God works through the Church to extend love to the whole world.

KEY QUOTES & SCRIPTURES

There is a lot of unrest in the world and people are searching to find a place of family and home.

LAURA TOGANIVALU

Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another...

HEBREWS 10:25 NLT

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

MATTHEW 18:20

When you love Jesus, you love those whom he loves.

CARDINAL TAGLE

When the Church is operating as Jesus intended, it's a force for profound hope and healing in the world.

What unites us is infinitely greater than what divides us.

NICKY GUMBEL

We are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

EPHESIANS 2:22

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

Jesus prayed 'that we may be one' – united – 'so that the world will believe.'

JOHN 17:21

Alpha, it's just the beginning. Your journey has just begun. Following Jesus is life's great adventure!

Tips & Guidelines for Hosting Discussion

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

