
Faith:

How can I have faith?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Discussion Guide has three parts:

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

Make sure to mention the details for your upcoming Alpha Weekend. Let your group know where, when, and what it is.

Q1

What kind of club would you start or join?

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- When you're retired what do you think your hobbies will be?
- What hobbies have you had over the years?

Q2

What do you think about Christianity being described in terms of a relationship with God?

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- What are some qualities or characteristics of a good relationship?
- How would a relationship with God be different from a relationship with someone else?

Q3

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

Show the group the picture of the characters at the pool from the end of the discussion guide.

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- What is it about that character that stands out to you the most?
- If you've seen this picture before, has your choice of character changed from last time?
- If you could add another character to represent yourself, what would it be like?

MORE QUESTIONS

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

- What stood out to you from this episode?
- Jason said, "The one who knows you the best, is the one who loves you the most." What do you think about that statement? Or how do you feel about it?
- What are some obstacles that might prevent you from having a relationship with God?
- After four weeks of Alpha what are the big questions on your mind? What are you hoping might come up in future weeks?
- What does the idea 'a step of faith' mean to you? What does that have to do with Christianity?

Episode Summary

BIG IDEA

The big question this episode is exploring is, what does it mean to be a Christian? Or, in other words, what does it mean to have faith? Christianity is not a club someone joins or a set of ideas to add to your knowledge. It is a life-changing relationship with Jesus! And we enter into that relationship by faith – not blind faith, but a step of faith based on the truth about who Jesus is and what he has done.

KEY QUOTES & SCRIPTURES

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

REVELATION 3:20

A great description of the word faith is *trust*. It's trusting someone (or something) enough to act on that trust.

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8

To all who believed him (that's Jesus) and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

JOHN 1:12

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

