

ALPHA FILM SERIES CHURCH GUIDE



**ALPHA
FILM
SERIES**

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WELCOME

Alpha like you've never seen it before.

The Alpha Film Series is an exciting new resource designed to help the audience begin life's greatest adventure—encountering Jesus through Alpha. We want to give as many people as possible this opportunity and we believe that the Alpha Film Series will be a helpful resource in their journey.

Repackaged for today's audience, the Alpha Film Series is emotive, engaging and epic in scale and scope. Nicky Gumbel and two new presenters, Toby Flint and Gemma Hunt, walk the audience through Alpha in a way that everyone can relate to. The beautifully shot episodes feature stories across all major denominations, interviews from all around the world, visual illustrations and motion graphics.

This document will serve as a helpful guide for you to understand what the Alpha Film Series is and how to use it to run Alpha in your church. We can't wait for you to join us in inviting more people to know Jesus!

WHAT IS ALPHA

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. All over the world, from Tijuana to Tokyo, people run Alpha and invite their local community to explore the Christian faith. Over 29 million people in 169 countries and 112 languages have tried Alpha.

Typically run over eleven weeks, each session looks at a different question that people can have about faith and is designed to create conversation. There's no pressure or charge; it's just an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together.

WHAT DOES ALPHA LOOK LIKE?

There isn't really an average Alpha. Alpha is run in local communities all around the world, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, bars, prisons, parks, universities, schools, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

FOOD.

Whether it's a group of friends gathered around a kitchen table, or a quick catch-up over coffee and cake, food has a way of bringing people together. It's no different at Alpha. Most sessions start with food, because it's a great way to build community and get to know each other.

TALK.

The talks are designed to engage guests and inspire conversation. Usually around thirty minutes long, they can be given as a live talk or played as a video. They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions such as Who is Jesus? and How can I have faith?

DISCUSSION.

Probably the most important part of any Alpha: the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and simply discuss it in a small group. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing guests can't say (seriously). It's an opportunity for them to hear from others and contribute their own perspectives in an honest, friendly and open environment.



WHAT IS THE ALPHA FILM SERIES

The Alpha Film Series is an updated, relevant and engaging resource designed to take the audience on an epic journey exploring the basics of the Christian faith.



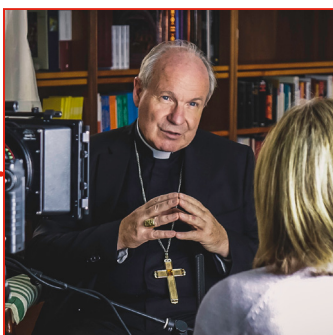
The AFS will be free to download at **alphausa.org/run** starting in April 2016. It will also be available in Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin and Hindi from September 2016.



Anyone can use the Alpha Film Series to run Alpha. It consists of all the videos you will need for your course, two thirty-minute training videos and a ten-minute introduction to the Alpha day/weekend.



The Alpha Film Series crew have been all around the world, filming in Canada, UK, France, Hong Kong, Israel and New York. Engage with us on social media at **#AlphaFilmSeries**.



The series features amazing stories including that of Jackie Pullinger, Cardinal Schönborn from the Catholic church and famous adventurer Bear Grylls.



Visit **alphausa.org/alphafilmseries** for more information about the product, cast and crew.



HOW TO USE THE ALPHA FILM SERIES



1. REGISTER: In order to download the Alpha Film Series, you will need to register your Alpha on alphausa.org/run and promote it on alphausa.org so that guests can easily find your Alpha. You will also be able to access training videos and small group notes. Although Alpha has a simple format, there are a few crucial things to remember when running a small group. Even if your hosts and helpers have done Alpha before, it is still important to train your team well.



2. INVITE: You can't use the Alpha Film Series to run Alpha without first inviting people! Download promotional material for free from alphausa.org/run or order it online from alpharesources.org. Choose and use posters, banners, postcards, invitations and business cards to get your congregation inviting family, neighbors, friends and work colleagues.



3. RUN: The format will work exactly the same as any other Alpha, beginning with food, a talk and then good conversation. The talk is where the Alpha Film Series comes into play. Watch the episode on a screen of your choice. Each week will cover different topics, with an additional four videos for the Alpha day/weekend. The Alpha Film Series contains fifteen episodes in total and runs for eleven weeks. Have fun!

FAQs

Is the Alpha Film Series free?

Yes, it is free for digital download starting in April 2016.

How will the Alpha Film Series co-exist with the Alpha youth Film Series?

The Alpha Youth Film Series is intended for a specific audience: youth. The Alpha Film Series is really designed for everyone. Feel free to use the appropriate resource for the appropriate audience.

Will the small group questions be integrated into each episode as they are in the Alpha Youth Film Series?

No, questions can be found in the Alpha Team Guide.

What are the titles for each episode?

The Alpha Film Series will cover all the traditional content that the current Alpha materials do. There will be fifteen episodes (30 minutes each), one introduction to the Alpha day/weekend (10 minutes) as well as two training videos (30 minutes each).

- Episode 1: Is there more to life than this?
- Episode 2: Who is Jesus?
- Episode 3: Why did Jesus die?
- Episode 4: How can I have faith?
- Episode 5 : How and why should I pray?
- Episode 6: How and why should I read the Bible?
- Episode 7: How does God guide us?
- Episode 8: Who is the Holy Spirit?
(Weekend talk 1)
- Episode 9: What does the Holy Spirit do?
(Weekend talk 2)
- Episode 10: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? (Weekend talk 3)
- Episode 11: How can I make the most of the rest of my life? (Weekend talk 4)
- Episode 12: How can I resist evil?
- Episode 13: Why and how should I tell others?
- Episode 14: Does God heal today?
- Episode 15: What about the church?

Will there be an eight-week version?

No, we recommend that churches use the Alpha Film Series to run Alpha in eleven weeks. However we are identifying an adaptation that will work for Alpha on Campus, which is typically run in eight weeks.

What are the plans for having this completed in other languages?

Both transcripts and the English version of the episodes will be released in April (staggered release), following which, the regional offices will start to translate them into Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic and Hindi. Translated episodes will be released from September 2016. If you would like to translate it into other languages, please contact your National Alpha Office.

When will the training videos be released?

The delivery dates for the two thirty-minute training videos are to be confirmed, but most likely not until after the delivery of all episodes.

Will there be updated Alpha Guides and Team Guides to go with the Alpha Film Series?

English version of the guides will be available by September 2016. The week by week section of the team guide will be available online in April.

What is the official hashtag for the Alpha Film Series?

#AlphaFilmSeries. We would love for you to post stories, quotes and pictures from your Alphas running around the world.