



# ALPHA WEEKEND PLANNING & PREP

The typical Alpha Weekend runs from Friday night to Sunday morning. This creates unhurried time and space to watch all the talks about the Holy Spirit, for waiting on God and praying together, and for people to relax and have fun.

For some groups getting away for a whole weekend is not possible. Sometimes people can only do the Friday night, and all day Saturday, or even just the one full day. It does take some planning but it's worth it.

## Why do the Alpha Weekend?

- It gives guests the space, time, and atmosphere needed to thoroughly process and reflect on what they are learning.
- It helps guests, hosts, and helpers get to know each other better and form lasting relationships. 3-4 of the teachings are given during the weekend (25% of the Alpha material).
- It provides an experience for guests to ask to be prayed for and filled with the Holy Spirit.
- It's an opportunity to let God bless and encourage guests and leaders.

**Tip #1:** Go to a house, cabin, retreat centre nearby – just somewhere different from the usual meeting space.

**Tip #2:** Watch the Prayer Ministry video with your whole team before the Alpha Weekend so they feel prepared.

The Alpha Weekend is all about getting away from the busyness of everyday life so people can connect with each other and connect with God. It's the part of Alpha that many people say was the turning point in their Alpha experience. We consistently see hearts more open to Jesus and lives changed. And that's why we do it.

## SAMPLE ALPHA WEEKEND SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY

- 6:00 pm – Arrive
- 7:00 pm – Dinner or Snacks
- 8:00 pm – Introduction / Icebreaker Game
- 9:00 pm – Show Intro to the Alpha Weekend video\*

\*For the Alpha Film Series & Alpha with Nicky Gumbel only.

### SATURDAY

- 8:30 am – Breakfast
- 9:00 am – Leaders' Meeting
- 9:30 am – Weekend Talk #1: Who is the Holy Spirit?
- 10:00 am – Refreshments and Snacks
- 10:30 am – Weekend Talk #2: What does the Holy Spirit Do?
- 11:00 am – Small Group Discussion
- 12:00 pm – Lunch
- 2:00 pm – Free time (activities can be organized)
- 4:00 pm – Snacks, coffee, and tea
- 5:00 pm – Worship & Weekend Talk #3: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- 5:30 pm – Prayer Ministry Time
- 6:30 pm – Dinner
- 8:00 pm – Free time

### SUNDAY

- 9:00 am – Breakfast
- 9:30 am – Leaders' Meeting
- 10:00 am – Small Group Discussion
- 11:00 am – Weekend Talk #4: How can I make the most of the rest my life? (AFS/ANG)
- 11:30 am – Prayer Ministry Time
- 12:00 pm – Lunch and Depart

\*Your schedule may change depending on your Alpha material and number of talks you have on the weekend.

# ALPHA WEEKEND CHECKLIST

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE LEADER TO DECIDE



**Timing** - Will you do an overnight Alpha Weekend or an Alpha Day?

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**Location** - Which venue accommodates structured and leisure time?

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**Cost** - How will we pay for this? Will the church subsidize or take an offering?

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**Dates** - When will you do your Alpha Weekend/Day?

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**Food** - What are you going to eat? Who will prepare the food?

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**Insurance/Liability** - Are there forms or contracts required in advance?

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**Number of Talks** - How many Alpha talks will you cover (2-4)?

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**Transportation** - How will everyone get there?

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### Possible items to bring:

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- Alpha resources (Alpha videos, handouts, etc.)
- Bibles
- First Aid Kit
- Sound system (projector, computer, cables etc.)
- Name tags
- Pens/pencils
- Games and prizes
- Tissue
- Sports equipment

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## CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE LEADER TO DELEGATE



**Team** - Do you need an Alpha Weekend planning team to help prepare?

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**Leaders** - Do you have people designated for the prayer ministry time?

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**Supplies** - Do you need to bring any supplies (e.g., TV, projector, speakers, games, etc)?

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**Promotion** - How will you promote and confirm sign-ups from guests?

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**Prayer** - Do you have people praying throughout this entire event?

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**Handouts** - What materials do you need to prepare in advance to bring along?

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**Fun** - What else can you do to make the time memorable and fun?

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**Atmosphere** - What can you do to make the space inviting and comfortable?

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**Childcare** - Do you need to provide this? Communicate about it to guests ahead of time.

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