



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 opportunity for guests to ask to be prayed for and filled with the Holy Spirit.
- It's a special time 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. For the Alpha Youth Series, give a short overview of what to expect on the weekend.

SATURDAY

- 8:30 am** – Breakfast
- 9:00 am** – Leaders' Meeting
- 9:30 am** – Weekend Talk #1: Who is the Holy Spirit? (AFS/AwNG) or How Does God Guide Us Into Full Life? (AYS)
- 10:00 am** – Refreshments and Snacks
- 10:30 am** – Weekend Talk #2: What does the Holy Spirit Do? (AFS/AwNG) or Who is the Holy Spirit and What Does He Do? (AYS)
- 11:00 am** – Small Group Discussion
- 12:00 pm** – Lunch
- 2:00 pm** – Free afternoon (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? (AFS/AwNG/AYS)
- 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 my life? (AFS/AwNG)
- 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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Dates - When will you do your Alpha Weekend/Day?
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Number of Talks - How many Alpha talks will you cover (2-4)?
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Location - Which venue accommodates structured and leisure time?
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Food - What are you going to eat? Who will prepare the food?
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Transportation - How will everyone get there?
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Cost - How will we pay for this? Will the church subsidize or take an offering?
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Insurance/Liability - Are there forms or contracts required in advance?
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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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Promotion - How will you promote and confirm sign-ups from guests?
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Fun - What else can you do to make the time memorable and fun?
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Leaders - Do you have people designated for the prayer ministry time?
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Prayer - Do you have people praying throughout this entire event?
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Atmosphere - What can you do to make the space inviting and comfortable?
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Supplies - Do you need to bring any supplies (e.g., TV, projector, speakers, games, etc)?
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Handouts - What materials do you need to prepare in advance to bring along?
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Childcare - Do you need to provide this? Communicate about it to guests ahead of time.
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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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