

Facilitation Basics

- Alpha works because it is a tool that is in God's hands and He speaks through us.
- Aim of Alpha – overall opportunity to explore meaning of life toward a relationship with Jesus – to know Him
 - Small group allows participants to freely discuss
 - Guest treated with honor, dignity, respect, low key, safe environment to talk without judgment, draw out thoughts, feelings, ideas
 - Host opens discussion, allow guests to speak to one another, get them talking to each other, ask questions, gently draw out quiet person
 - No one has to talk or is called out
 - Host is impartial, fair, does not draw to Christian conclusion or teach
 - Helper general rule: quiet mostly in beginning to get group talking
 - Helper takes notes to remember to free Host to manage discussion
- Two basic questions: What do you think? And/or feel?; What do others think? And or feel?
- During dinner – talk about personal things to develop a relationship
- Use nametags only first few weeks, then everyone should know each other's names
- Beauty of Alpha – people can ask any question and be respected – hear them out no matter what
- Never ask what religion person is
- Everything is confidential
- Apprehension: our angst is normal. The Holy Spirit shows up: this is His work – pray every day for Hosts, Helpers, Team, Volunteers, Guests
- Week by week progression: first few weeks most difficult then get into a rhythm with it – everyone is more comfortable
- If discussion gets off topic, bring it back to topic of the evening;
 - relate it to a question on the topic
 - relate it to the goal of a personal relationship with Jesus
- Guests are sharing their journey with us – it is a privilege. Let the Holy Spirit navigate

Pope Francis said to lead with an encounter of Jesus the person, not doctrine. A person needs their heart warmed with the gospel.