

The Alpha Course - Getting Started



Congratulations on choosing to run the Alpha course! Here are 7 suggestions to help you run the course effectively and creatively:

1) Let us support you. Talk to your local Regional or Specialty Alpha Director and she/he will assign a Course Coach for you! Coaches are available to support you in prayer, offer you helpful advice, and connect you with other leaders in your area for more support! See the online list of Canadian Alpha staff members (www.alphacanada.org) and/or phone the Alpha National Office (1 800 743 0899).

2) Follow the recipe but feel free to be creative. Read through the “*3 Essential Elements*” document for an overview of the Alpha philosophy. Each element is vital – connection, Christian teaching and conversation. Run Alpha in your church, local coffee shop, fitness centre, high school etc. Visit the Alpha Tools website (www.alphatools.ca) regularly for current news, free downloads, innovative ideas and course helps.

3) Order your resources early. Browse through and shop for our products online at yourchurchzone.com or phone toll free at 1-800-263-2664. Also, check with your local Christian bookstore for Alpha products and seasonal sales!

The Top 5 Items to get you started are:

1. **The Alpha Talks** – 5 options:

Alpha Classic Talks* 10 weeks /40-45 min talks	Speaker: Host Nicky Gumbel on DVD	Purchase online: Alpha DVD set “long talks” Item 15153, approx \$135.99	Online resource: Leaders Course Helps are available free online: www.alphatools.ca
Alpha Express Talks* 10 weeks/20-25 min talks	Speaker: Host Nicky Gumbel on DVD	Purchase online: Alpha DVD set “express talks” Item 15154, approx \$135.99	Online resource: Leaders Course Helps are available free online: www.alphatools.ca
<i>** Or buy both sets, Alpha Classic & Express version with Nicky Gumbel (Item 15152, approx \$189.99)</i>			
Campus Alpha Talks <i>for young adults or adults</i> 7-weeks / 25-30 min talks	Speaker: Host Jamie Haith	* NEW RESOURCE! * Purchase online: Campus Alpha Flash Drive: Item 100637, approx \$41.99 Includes all talks & training too! Campus Alpha Leaders Guide: Item 100627, approx \$15.99	Online resource: OR... Download all the Campus Alpha talks for FREE after you register your course at www.alphacanada.org/register
Youth Alpha Talks <i>for high school students</i> 7 or 10 wks / 20-40 min talks	Speaker: Live talks presented by lay leaders or pastors using Alpha transcripts.	Purchase online: Youth Alpha Leader’s Guide & Curriculum Books Item 25588, approx \$47.99 Includes transcripts, planning tips, illustrations etc. No DVD.	Online resource: OR...Build your own talks, quotes, movie clips, etc. using: www.youthalpha.org/talkbuilder
Alpha Live 7, 10 or 20 weeks / Customizable. (20 is for ESOL students)	Speaker: Live talks presented by lay leaders or pastors using Alpha transcripts.	No DVD available for purchase. Please contact the Alpha office for the FREE Alpha for ESOL DVD set of training & transcripts (1 800 743 0899).	Online resource: Transcripts available on Alpha Tools for Nicky’s talks, Jamie’s talks & Alpha for ESOL. www.alphatools.ca



2. ***NEW* How to Run the Alpha Course: Director's Handbook** (Item 9781934564394, approx \$16.99) This handbook explains how to pick team members, the priority of prayer, setting a start date, budgets, promotion, training, logistics and what to do after Alpha!

3. **Alpha Guest Manuals** – Square Format, 6X6 size (Item 15204, approx \$4.75 each)

4. **Small Group Team Manual** – Group Leaders’ Guide (Item 15389, approx \$5.25 each)

5. **Alpha Small Group Leader's Training DVD** (Item 25606, approx \$41.99) *Scroll below for more options.*

Visit the Alpha Tools website and/or www.yourchurchzone.com for a complete list of all Alpha products.

To purchase Alpha materials please visit www.yourchurchzone.com and scroll down to the "Alpha" logo, phone toll free at 1-800-263-2664 or check with your local Christian bookstore.

4) Train your Alpha team. Training the team is absolutely essential. These meetings help teams understand the Alpha DNA, learn relevant small group skills and help build unity within the team. The **Alpha Director’s Handbook** provides helpful information about team roles, how to pick your team etc.

We suggest **meeting 3 times** for team training for each Alpha course.

Before Alpha begins: “Leading Small Groups” and “Pastoral Care”

Before the Weekend Away: “Praying for Others”

3 Options to train your team. Training includes all 3 Talks listed above.

Nicky Gumbel - Leaders’ Training DVD	Alpha Small Group Leaders Training DVD (Item 25606 - Approx \$41.99)	3 Talks - approx. 1 hour each
Jamie Haith - Leaders’ Training Videos	Free and downloadable on Alpha Tools.	3 Talks - approx. 30 min each (OR included on the Campus Alpha Flash Drive)
LIVE Training – Leaders’ Training PowerPoint slides	Free and downloadable on Alpha Tools.	3 Talks - Speakers’ notes are provided. Length is up to you.

Weekly Realtime Training tips are emailed to Course Administrators who register their courses! Includes topic-specific practical ideas for all members of the Alpha team - cooks, pastors, small group leaders, musicians, set up crew etc! To see a sample or sign up the rest of your team, visit: www.alphatools.ca/realtime.

Alpha Conferences and Training Days are provided across Canada. Visit www.alphatools.ca/events.

5) Register your Alpha course. Our online course directory helps guests find your course. If you want your Alpha course to remain private, please DO register but click NO to post online (“publish”) and you will still receive all the benefits (free publicity, Realtime Training emails, Course Coach, special events, new resources etc!) www.alphacanada.org/register

6) Promote your Alpha course. AlphaTools.ca provides creative ideas to inspire your church to invite their friends and family and how to promote your course to the local community. Download **FREE Alpha posters, business cards, guest invitations, video clips** and so much more!

7) Book your Alpha weekend away now. Spending a “day away” focusing on the person and work of the Holy Spirit works well, but a “weekend away” is much more effective. Visit the Alpha Tools website for a helpful planning checklist, brochure samples, sign up forms, ideas to promote your retreat, etc.

Alpha Ministries Canada // Toll free: 1 800 743 0899 // training@alphacanada.org
www.alphatools.ca