



Life Shared

Small Group Series

Leader's Guide

We're so excited that you're planning to run the Life Shared Small Group Series!

This short guide will give you all the information you need to run the sessions in your community or small group.

Who is Life Shared for?

The series is designed for church small groups who want to take time to think about how they could share their faith with friends, colleagues and neighbours.

What do I need to get started?

Print

Simply download the discussion guides and print one for each person (including yourself).

Pray

Consider praying for the members of your small group ahead of the sessions.

Play

Either stream the videos or download them (if internet isn't available during your small group).

What does a typical session look like?

1. Ice Breaker

Before you start the video, ask a fun question that everyone feels comfortable answering.

2. Video

The videos are approximately 15 minutes long, with moments to pause and discuss certain topics. Simply pause the video at the indicated moments and discuss the questions in the discussion guides.

3. Discussion

The discussion guides contain questions that directly relate to the content of the video. Don't worry if you don't get through all of the questions; the aim is to foster good group discussion rather than covering all of the topics.

4. Scripture

Read the Bible verse(s) in the discussion guides at the end of the videos to ground the conversations.

5. Prayer

Once you have wrapped up the discussions, make sure you leave time for prayer. Each session has a specific prayer topic related to the video.



Tips for Leaders

Welcome

Set the stage for everyone's opinion to be welcomed and remind the group about good listening practices (e.g. no cross talk, waiting your turn to speak, etc.).

Listen

Resist the urge to turn the discussion into a teaching time or an opportunity to correct what other people share, even if you disagree. We want to create a safe environment and invite people to share what they are actually thinking.

Wait

Don't shy away from the occasional moment of silence. We even encourage asking a question and stating out loud that you are giving everyone a minute or so to think about their answer in silence before sharing.

Time

Keep an eye on the time so that you are able to finish the video while leaving enough space for discussion, prayer and application at the end. Don't feel like you have to cover all of the questions; they are just there to facilitate the discussion.

Pairs

Occasionally break the group into pairs and have them answer the questions that way. Then you can come back together as a larger group and share what you discussed with everyone else. A practice like this is less intimidating than speaking in front of a whole group.

Trust

Trust the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those attending the group.

A Message from Alpha

The aim of this series is to provoke thoughts and ideas around sharing your faith. You'll notice that we haven't been prescriptive about how to do so. That was intentional. There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to evangelism and, as soon as you offer one, people tend to immediately count themselves out.

We believe that God invites all of us to participate in His work of redeeming and healing the world.

No one is disqualified.

Everyone is invited.

Rather than give people a formula for sharing faith, we hope to spark imagination around this topic, and invite each person to take a step in the direction of reaching out to others. Whether the step feels big or small, it is exciting to join together with what God is already doing all around us.

And we were never meant to do this alone!

Life Shared also means doing evangelism together! Consider what God is calling you to do as a way of reaching outwards — individually and as a group. Once you've taken that first step together, why not take another? Who knows how God will use your small steps of obedience to draw people to Himself?

In Christ, The Alpha Team

