

The Small Group Hosts

Serve as part of the Ministry Team and report to the Small Group Coordinator.

The key responsibility of the Small Group Hosts is to facilitate discussion in the small groups and to create a welcoming atmosphere where guests feel free to ask honest questions about the Christian faith.

Qualifications

A growing Christian; has at least the beginnings of the gift of evangelism; is good with people; sensitive; understands the work of the Holy Spirit; is “full of the Spirit and wisdom” (Acts 6:3); understands from where nonchurchgoers or non-Christians are coming; nonjudgmental; and has a servant’s heart.

Specific Responsibilities

1. Attend all training sessions, the opening Alpha Dinner, all weekly administrative/prayer meetings, each of 10 weekly Alpha sessions, the Weekend Away, any follow-up meetings, and the Celebration Dinner.
2. Read *Questions of Life* and *Searching Issues* (both by Nicky Gumbel) prior to Alpha to become familiar with the course content and objections to the Christian faith which may arise during the course.
3. Prepare for each small group time by reviewing the material and praying for the speaker, the other leaders and helpers, and each group member. Be prepared to lead a Bible study when your group is ready and as outlined in *The Alpha Course Team Manual*.
4. Be familiar with the material in chapter 5 of *Telling Others* and pages 18–44 of *The Alpha Course Team Manual*. If at all possible do not have the Leader’s Guide in plain view during group time, especially during the early sessions. You want group members to discuss freely and not to feel you are following a script.
5. Be sensitive to the spiritual and emotional needs of all Alpha participants. Offer pastoral care as needed.
6. Prepare for each worship time by praying for the speaker, the Worship Leader, other Worship and Prayer Ministry Team Members, the guests, and yourself. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area of your life where you need forgiveness and to fill you.
7. During the prayer ministry times, pray for those who respond and indicate they would like prayer. Prayer times occur after the talk on healing and on the Weekend or Day Away. Remember the guidelines to pray in teams with a designated leader and to pray for members of your same sex.

Reminders for leading effective small groups

1. Become a facilitator (simply another member of the group who is helping to make the discussion happen). Seek to guide and steer the group to truth rather than dictate terms or sit in judgment.
2. Look for opinions, not answers. Ask what the person thinks or feels.
3. Foster an environment of open discussion. The participants will feel like it is their group and will be more likely to own what they discover and learn.
4. Pray for each person before, during, and after each group time. Prayer is your most important task.
5. Communicate clearly in what ways you need your helpers to assist.