

TALK ONE

The logo for Alpha Youth, featuring a stylized blue 'A' with a white circle inside containing the word 'Alpha' in blue. Below the 'A' is the word 'YOUTH' in blue, underlined.

Alpha
YOUTH

LIFE:
IS THIS IT?



key

PERSONAL STORY

Any heading highlighted in yellow is a personal story that Ben and Jason share in the Alpha Youth Film Series. These may be replaced with a live speaker's personal story or the speaker may tell the story about Ben and Jason in the same way Ben and Jason share stories about others.

STORY

Any section heading highlighted in blue is a story that Ben and Jason share in the Alpha Youth film Series. These may be replaced with a live speaker's own story they've heard that illustrates the same point.

QUOTES

Any section heading highlighted in pink are quotes that are key to the talk in order to emphasize a point and to enable guests to engage and relate the material.

BIBLE TEACHING

Any section heading highlighted in green is meant to identify key bible passages for the talk that you may or may not wish to display visually on screens for your guests. Bolded text in these sections are passages that may be put on the screen as a visual aid.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Any section heading highlighted in red is meant to identify a place where an illustration can be used. An example illustration used in the Alpha Youth Film Series is there as an example but speakers are free to use their own illustrations if they wish.

VIDEO ELEMENTS

Any section heading highlighted in orange meant to function as a cue to play the specified Video Element or Street Talk Element provided as an additional resource to make the live talk more engaging. This is an optional part of the talks but are highly recommended to be used by speakers.

key

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS

Red type identifies a part of the key teaching text that could be removed or altered for contextualisation.

Italicized type is a specific instruction we're giving to speakers on how to use the provided script.

Text left untouched is the standard key message content of the Alpha talk. Speakers should leave this portion of the talk untouched.

TALK SUMMARY

Everybody has a void in their heart that nothing in this world can satisfy.

Jesus is the bread of life that satisfies the void in every human heart.

Some don't believe in Christianity because they think faith and science contradict.

Faith and science actually complement one another. They just answer different questions.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the answer to life's biggest questions.

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ALL VIDEOS FOR THIS WEEK'S TALK

TALK ONE LIFE: IS THIS IT?

VIDEO ELEMENT 1

ASKING THE BIG QUESTIONS OPENER

Play Video Element 1 as a “Video Opener” marking the start of Talk 1. This should be played before the speaker comes on stage.

WELCOME + OPENING REMARKS

Speaker begins Talk 1 with welcome and opening remarks. Speakers should do this in a way that is natural and relatable to their local context.

Example: Welcome to (insert youth ministry name here)! My name is (insert speaker name here) and I’m so excited you’re here. Tonight we’re starting something new called Alpha.

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS ALPHA?

Now you might be wondering... what is Alpha? Great question! Alpha is a series of sessions designed to help us explore some of life’s most important questions.

Each time as we come together, we’re going to talk about a different topic. We want to make you think about what you believe and help spark a conversation with the people around you.

So in each talk, there will be three short breaks for discussion

We’ll throw up a question, hear from people all over the world give an answer to it and then give you a chance to discuss it together.

So, let’s start with a simple one right now. If you had 24 hours where you could do anything you wanted to, what would you do?

Speaker shares their own answer to the question before cutting to the next video and inviting students to prepare to respond in discussion with their peers.

PLAY STREET TALK 1 AND/OR COUCH CONVO 1A

Question: If you had 24 hours to do anything you wanted, what would you do?

WHAT IS ALPHA? CONT.

There aren't many places we can go to explore life's biggest question so as we go through Alpha together, we want to create a space where we can talk about those kinds of questions in a way that's open and honest.

In each session, I'm gonna look at a different topic with you and we'll talk about it from a Christian perspective. Now I know that just mentioning the word Christian may bring up a lot of questions and you might be thinking... am I going to be the only one here who doesn't believe all this stuff or who isn't a Christian?

If that's you, then we want you to know that you're in the right place. Alpha is specifically designed for people who wouldn't necessarily call themselves Christians. And I understand where you're coming from.

PERSONAL STORY:

PRECONCEIVED IDEAS ABOUT CHRISTIANS/CHURCH

Speaker shares a personal story about a preconceived idea they used to have about Christianity and/or the Church when they were young.

Example: Christians are judgemental, hypocritical, haters. The Bible is just a book of "fairytale," Jesus was just a good, moral teacher, etc.

Example from Film Series:

BEN'S STORY: I know for me growing up, I wasn't very interested in church or Christianity. I just thought the whole thing was boring. I imagined old people singing old songs, reading from old books and drinking tea together. I just never really imagined myself as a Christian

JASON'S STORY: When I first really started thinking about Christianity, I wondered if the whole thing was even true. Like are there any intelligent reasons to believe this stuff? It seemed irrelevant to my life. I used to think to myself, "How could a story about someone who lived 2,000 years ago, on the other side of the world, have anything to do with my life today?"

ILLUSTRATION

HAPPINESS BUCKET

Despite what I thought, as I got older, my perspective began to change.

Speaker shares an illustration that demonstrates the human longing for fulfillment and how it began to open their heart/mind to consider the claims of Christianity.

Example from Series:

Happiness Bucket: I once heard someone say that in each one of our hearts, it's like we have a happiness bucket that we're constantly trying to fill. It can sound like this. "If I just had more money or nicer clothes or a new girlfriend, then I'd be happy. Or if I just got better grades or knew all the right people or had the perfect job, then my life would be totally complete." But the weird thing is no matter how much stuff we try to fill our happiness buckets with, we're still left wanting. And as good as those things can be, we can't shake the feeling that there must be more to life than this. It's like there's a void in each one of our hearts. There's this deeper, even spiritual hunger that we're all trying to satisfy.

BIBLE - JOHN 6:35 (NIV)

JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO OUR HUNGER

Jesus Christ, who's the central figure in the Christian faith, said: **"I am the bread of life."** (John 6:35, NIV). And it's as if he's saying, "I'm the one who fills that void. I'm the one who satisfies that hunger.

But hey, you don't have to take it from me. Let's check out this story from a man named David Ash who experienced this for himself.

Speaker cues Video Element 2.

PLAY VIDEO ELEMENT 2

DAVID ASH'S STORY

STORY

GOD FILLS THE VOID

Speaker shares a story about someone they know in their life who has had a similar experience as described by David in the video of his story.

EXAMPLE FROM FILM SERIES:

I once heard about a guy named Mark who put it like this, 'It's like God has filled a void in my heart that I didn't even know I had until after it was filled.' It wasn't until he experienced a relationship with God that he realized that it was the very thing his heart longed for.

BIBLE TEACHING

Because when you experience God's love, it changes everything.

I heard it described in a song one time. The lyrics say that it's like life goes "from black and white to color all around. All is new."

But hey, we want to hear from you! So let's see what our next question is and get ready to jump into some discussion together.

Speaker cues Street Talk 2.

PLAY STREET TALK 2 AND/OR COUCH CONVO 1B

Question: What makes you happy?

True for you, not for me...

Now some people's response to Christianity might be... "Well, that's great for you to believe this stuff, but it's not for me."

But if you think about it, that's not really a logical position to hold.

Because if Christianity is true, then it's important to everyone of us. And if it's not true, then it's not really great for any of us.

QUOTE

C.S. LEWIS

The author, C.S. Lewis put it like this, “Christianity, if false, is of no importance and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

C.S. Lewis was someone who had taken the time to examine the evidence for and against Christianity and he concluded that it’s true.

And he wasn’t the only one either. In fact many of the most influential scientists were Christians like Newton, Kepler, Galileo, and Copernicus.

Plus, some of the most respected scientists today are Christians. For example, Francis Collins is the director of the human genome project, a project that mapped the entire human DNA.

Speaker cues Video Element 3.

PLAY VIDEO ELEMENT 3

FRANCIS COLLIN’S STORY

Transition:

I’ve heard some people say that faith and science oppose each other, but actually faith and science work together really well because they both answer different questions. They both offer explanations about the world that complement each other.

Science looks at how things work and describes the laws of the universe. Faith helps us make sense of questions like, “Why do we exist?” or “What’s the purpose of life?”

ILLUSTRATION

HAPPINESS BUCKET

Speaker shares an illustration that demonstrates the complementary nature of faith and science and how they are just answering two different questions that don’t conflict with one another.

Continued on next page.

ILLUSTRATION CONT.

EXAMPLE FROM FILM SERIES:

Cake Illustration:

I had this cake that I just finished baking and I want to give it to my friend. Now if Landry was a scientist and examined the cake, he'd be able to tell you a lot about it like what it was made of, how it was made and maybe even when it was made, but he couldn't tell you everything. He couldn't tell you who made it and more importantly why it was made. Only the creator of the cake can do that. Only I can tell you I made the cake and I can tell you why I made that cake. I made it for my friend, Landry, because he loves cake! It's the same with this universe. Only the creator can reveal who made this world and why it was made. On Alpha, we're going to explore those questions of who and why.

But now seems like a great time to hear your thoughts. So let's talk about this!

Speaker cues Video Street Talk 3

PLAY VIDEO STREET TALK 3 AND/OR COUCH CONVO 1C

Question: If it turned out God existed after all and you could ask one question, what would it be?

BIBLE – JOHN 14:6 (NIV)

One of the most significant things that Jesus ever said was... **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.” (John 14:6 NIV)**

When Jesus said, “I am the way,” he’s saying, “I’m the way to a love and lasting relationship with God” – a relationship that fulfills that longing we all have to be loved and accepted.

When Jesus says, “I’m the truth,” he’s not just talking about head knowledge like memorizing a list of facts about God. It’s heart knowledge, too. He’s saying that truth is personal. You can know God personally.

ILLUSTRATION

INSTAGRAM RELATIONSHIPS VS. REAL RELATIONSHIPS

Speaker shares an illustration that demonstrates the difference between knowing about someone and truly knowing someone personally.

EXAMPLE FROM FILM SERIES

It's the difference between knowing facts about someone and actually knowing them. imagine for a moment that I didn't know (insert close family member/friend's name here) personally, but I started following them on social media. I'd find out pretty quick that they're... (insert random facts about said person)

But even if I looked at every single one of (insert close family member/friend's name here) posts, that would be just head knowledge and that's way different than the personal experience of being in relationship with (insert close family member/friend's name her). What Jesus is saying is that it's possible for us to know God like that, like we know a real friend.

Understanding this, realizing this about Christianity changed everything for me. I used to think that Christianity had no relevance in my life, but now it's the opposite. Nothing has had a bigger impact on my life today than my relationship with God.

BIG IDEA

JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE CONT.

Lastly, Jesus says, "I am the life." Ultimately, he's saying that he is the only one who can truly give you full life. Not that it'll all be easy, but that in him, we find a life of meaning and fulfillment, a life without guilt or shame.

We all know those feelings of guilt because we do things that are wrong. But, the wonderful news is that God loves us in spite of that.

God came in the person of his Son, Jesus, to die for you and for me. And, on the cross, he took all of our guilt, everything we've ever done wrong, said wrong or thought wrong and he died in our place in order that we could be forgiven.

When we receive that forgiveness, we experience life and life in all its fullness. And that's exactly what Jesus wants for you and for me, life in all its fullness, life at its very best.

CLOSING REMARKS

I don't know what brought you out to (insert ministry name here) today, but we want you to know that as we go through Alpha together, this is a place where you can be yourself. No question is too complex or too simple. You can say what you really think and feel free to challenge everything.

Whether you consider yourself a Christian, an atheist, or somewhere in between, we're so glad you're here. You could've been doing anything tonight, but you chose to think about some of life's biggest questions.

ILLUSTRATION

TIME IS LIMITED

By the time you're 70 years old, on average, this is how you're going to spend your life. You're going to spend 20 years and 3 months asleep, 10 years and give months watching TV, 7 years and 6 months eating and drinking, 5 years and 9 months in some form of transportation, 18 months waiting in line and 6 months at red lights.

It's alarming to think that some of us will spend more time sitting at red lights than we will talking about important issues of life and faith.

You have approximately 570,000 hours left to live. We want to invite you to spend less than 24 of them with us at (insert ministry name here) as we go through Alpha together.

CONCLUSION

Speaker closes the session with a brief prayer over their group.

Speaker plugs next week's topic "Who is Jesus?"