



Although every correctional facility and institution is unique, consider these key factors when preparing to run an Alpha in a prison context.

PREPARING FOR ALPHA PRISON

1. Research who the Warden, Chaplain, or Program manager is at the prison and ask if Alpha has ever been offered there before. Ask them for best method of inviting inmates.
2. Inquire if volunteers are allowed into the prison and ask about the clearance process. The timeframe for clearance varies by location.
3. Select your team wisely and train them well.
4. Plan how you will share the videos. Laptops are usually not allowed.
5. Ask if food is permitted to be brought into the prison.
6. Consider if you will offer worship. If you do, work out these details with the right people.
7. Pray for the Lord to soften hearts and bring the right people to serve and participate.

RUNNING ALPHA PRISON

1. Start each Alpha with a joke or icebreaker to help everyone relax and laugh together.
2. Treat inmates and staff with respect and kindness; get to know their names.
3. Emphasize that the small group is a place for everyone to be heard but be patient if some stay quiet.
4. Here are a few basic rules:
 - Don't ask what they are in for. They may share this information as the weeks progress, but they need to tell their own story.
 - Don't accept anything (gifts, paper, art, etc.) from an inmate.
 - Don't do favors for anyone.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Register your course, access materials including team huddle notes where jokes and ice breakers can be found:
<https://alphausa.org/run>
- Attend a Run Alpha Training:
<https://alphausa.org/events>
- Connect with a Prison Coach/Specialists:
<https://alphausa.org/specialists>
- Watch Prison Coach, Benny's Story here:
<https://vimeo.com/858711148>