



ALPHA ONLINE 2020



HOSTS & HELPERS GUIDE

Does God
heal today?

DOES GOD HEAL TODAY?

Icebreakers (before video)

WHAT TECHNOLOGY WOULD YOU LOVE TO SEE INVENTED?

- What do you think is the worst invention ever made?
- Other than your phone, laptop, tv, or tablet, what piece of technology do you use the most?

See more icebreaker or online games ideas at the end of this guide.

Discussion Questions (after video)

- **It is often good to start with: “Did anything from the episode stand out to you?”**

1 WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE IDEA THAT GOD HEALS PEOPLE TODAY?

- What kind of questions come to mind when you think about God healing people?
- How do you see the relationship between medical intervention and miraculous healing?

2 TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO TALK ABOUT ANY EXPERIENCES YOU’VE HAD PRAYING FOR HEALING. SHARE ANY STORIES YOU’VE HEARD OF GOD HEALING SOMEONE.

- Physical healing isn’t the only type of healing someone can experience. What are some other ways someone could be healed?
- Did any of the stories from this episode stand out to you?
- How do we make sense of the times God doesn’t heal someone when we ask?

PRAYER TIME:

FOR THIS SESSION, INSTEAD OF TAKING MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSION, TAKE 10-15 MINUTES TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER FOR HEALING

- Explain that you are going to take some time to pray for each other and that no one has to pray or receive prayer if they don’t want to.
- Ask if anyone has prayer requests specifically for healing. They don’t have to be specific if they don’t want to.
- If one of the leaders shared words of knowledge about what God might want to heal, you can ask if anyone in your group connects with what was shared.
- This is a good time to clear up any general issues about the subject of healing, so allow time for the group to discuss briefly before praying together.
- Ask if one or two from the group would like to pray for the person who needs healing.
- This is also an opportunity to pray for people to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to pray for any other issues that are brought up.
- **Pray for guests according to the prayer ministry guidelines (see page 4).**
- **Be prepared for someone who may want to give their life to Christ. Equally affirm those who do want to be prayed for and those who do not**

Episode Summary

BIG IDEA

God invites us to be a part of bringing healing to others. The Gospels are full of stories of how Jesus healed people miraculously. What we see in the New Testament and throughout history is that God uses his followers to do the same. While we may not fully understand why God heals some people and not others, we keep asking because we can trust that he is a good and loving Father.

KEY QUOTES & SCRIPTURES

I am the Lord, who heals you.
EXODUS 15:26, NIV

When Jesus heals people, it is like a taste of the future. It tells us that one day everyone is going to be healed.

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

MATTHEW 9:35 NIV

We're free and able to ask the Holy Spirit at any time to heal us. But if the Spirit does not do it, there's no reason to think that it's because we have no faith, or that God does not love us, or that God is punishing us.

FATHER RANIERO CANTALAMESSA

Tips & Guidelines for Hosting Discussion

GUIDELINES FOR THE GROUP

- You don't have to talk if you don't want to
- You can ask or say just about anything
(as long as you aren't putting other people down or making it so others can't talk)
- Respect each other by listening and welcoming different opinions
- Keep things confidential when you leave the group

TIPS FOR HOSTS & HELPERS

- Remember names
- Pray
- Be committed
- Show up early to welcome guests
- Stay long enough to chat with guests afterwards
- Keep the conversation alive and balanced
- Be encouraging
- End on time
- If time allows, debrief with your Alpha team to celebrate wins, chat about challenges and share prayer requests

How to Pray

1. RESPECT THE INDIVIDUAL

- Offer to pray for each member of your group in turn
- Ask if there is anything specific you can pray for
- They may want to pray a prayer of commitment to Jesus
 - you could use a simple prayer: 'sorry,' 'thank you,' 'please'
- They may want to receive a gift of the Spirit
- Confidentiality is important:
 - exceptions: if in doubt, seek the advice of Alpha leaders or church team/staff
- Explain what will happen

2. REMEMBER THE BIBLE

- Pray in line with the word of God: the Spirit of God and the Bible never conflict
- Build on the Bible's promises to encourage and strengthen
 - freedom from guilt (Romans 8:1)
 - assurances of repentance (Psalm 51)
 - release from fear (Psalm 91)
 - God's guidance (Psalm 37:5)
 - power to overcome temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - peace in times of anxiety (Philippians 4:6-7)
 - faith in times of doubt (Matthew 7:7-11)

3. RELY ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us.' (Romans 8:26)

- Pray simple prayers: 'Come Holy Spirit'; 'Thank you that you love [guest's name]'
- Trust in Jesus' promises: expect the Holy Spirit to come (Luke 11:13)
- Don't be afraid of silence - wait and listen to God
- If you feel God is saying something, ask yourself:
 - is it in line with the Bible
 - is it strengthening, encouraging, comforting?
- Keep your eyes open (if possible online): watch what is happening
- Avoid intensity: no special 'prayer voice', religious language, eccentricity
- Avoid laying unnecessary burdens on guests, eg lack of faith
- Avoid praying about sensitive subjects: relationships, children, jobs, money
- Avoid criticising other denominations or churches

'... the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort' (1 Corinthians 14:3)

4. RELAX AND TRUST GOD

- Ask: 'What do you sense is happening?' or 'Do you sense God saying something?'
- Refuse to believe that nothing has happened
- Hold on to God's promises (Matthew 7:11)
- Reassure guests that God's promises do not depend on our feelings - some may have physical manifestations, others may feel nothing but God is still at work

Icebreakers

Laughter is food for the soul! Here are some fun icebreakers you can use each week:



- Do you squeeze the toothpaste tube or roll it? What's the advantage of your method?
- When was the last time you square-danced or line-danced? Rate your dancing ability on a scale of 1 to 10.
- What's one fashion trend you hope never comes back? Which ones have come back that you wish hadn't?
- What magic tricks do you know? Perform one now.
- Do you have a collection? If so, what do you collect and why?

- Are you more inclined to "build your own empire" or "unleash the potential of others"? Explain.
- What's your preference: plane, train, boat, automobile, horse, or camel?
- What was your favorite recess activity: dodgeball, kickball, foursquare, hopscotch, freeze tag or jump rope?
- What's your pick: hang glide, sky dive, bungee jump, hot air balloon, or kite?
- What is one of your favorite souvenirs brought back from your travels? Where do you keep it?

- What is your favorite bumper sticker or t-shirt slogan?
- As a child, did you ever peek into a wrapped gift before you actually received it? Did you ever get caught? Explain the details.
- What room in your house best reflects your personality? Why?
- Who's the most famous person you've ever met? What famous person would you most like to meet?
- What's your favorite kind of candy?

- What's the wackiest belief you held as a child?
- Which movies have you watched over and over again?
- What do you admire most about your best friend?
- What items do you currently have stored in the trunk of your car?
- Are you an early bird or a night owl? Why?