



WINTER 2021 ALPHA @ OVCN

FAQ

WHO IS THIS FOR?

- **For adults of all ages** with faith/spiritual questions, of any kind.
- **No faith needed.** Those attending are a mixture of non-Christians (agnostics, atheists, people of other faiths) as well as those new to Christian faith who have questions and want to learn more.
- **This is NOT a class where people are taught what to think.** Rather, it is a place where we foster open & honest discussion, watch videos about faith topics and encourage everyone to share their own insights & questions with those at their table.
- **Inviting friends, neighbors, family, etc., is key to Alpha!** Those inviting are encouraged to come and fully participate with their friends, and when signing up can put in the special requests box they want to be in the same group as their friends.
- **To learn more about what Alpha is all about,** go to ovcn.church/alpha and watch the video clips there.

WHERE & WHEN?

- **Wednesdays at OVCN, 6pm-7:45pm, in Third Space**
- Dinner begins at 6pm
- Begins with **Preview Night on Jan. 20**, where people can try it out and see if it's for them. Alpha will then continue there on Wednesday nights until Mar. 17.

HOW DO I SIGN UP? IS THERE A COST?

- Go to ovcn.church/alpha, and click the [RSVP](#) button.
- **There is no cost** for Alpha. Meals are provided as a gift each week by OVCN.

WHAT ABOUT COVID-19?

- We at OVCN take the safety of all those on campus, including our Alpha attenders in the community, very seriously. We have installed **air scrubbers** in all of our buildings to filter out 99% of all germs & viruses from the air, and our staff maintain a **stringent sanitization policy** during COVID-19. Ultimately, **we are confident and encourage you to make a decision that is best for you and your family.**
- **All meals on campus** are served during this heightened, COVID-19 season in individual, to-go containers as added protection from any potential cross contamination. Meals are prepared and served, carefully following all county-recommended COVID-19 guidelines.
- **We request masks be worn**, when not eating or drinking and on campus at OVCN, for the added protection of yourself and others. Though we currently do not require masks while on campus, this may change as laws/regulations change.
- **Can I participate on Zoom?** While this session of Alpha will be in-person only, we will be offering Alpha Online in the spring (April-June), registration will open in March online at ovcn.church/alpha. If we are required to close the OVCN campus, we will immediately adjust to running Alpha online, via Zoom, and notify all participants.

WHAT ABOUT OUR KIDS?

- **Children's ministry** (up to 5th grade) will be available during Alpha (6-7:30pm, however they will be accommodating kids of Alpha families until Alpha ends at 7:45pm).
- **Student ministry** (6th-12th grade) will be available during Alpha (6-7:45pm), on the East Campus.
- **If you want your child to eat here first**, you will need to notify us in advance (on the signup form) and come early (5:45pm) so that we can serve them early and they can be in children's or student ministry with everyone by 6pm. With advance notice, we will have quick, prepared meals in to-go boxes for them by 5:30pm in the Third Space.

WHAT ABOUT ASL?

- **Participants wanting ASL assistance** can designate this on their online signup, and our ASL ministry will be in touch and seek to accommodate all requests.
- **If there are enough ASL participants** to form an ASL group, we will do so. Invite others!

WHAT DOES THE TYPICAL NIGHT LOOK LIKE?

- 6:00-6:30pm meal, 6:30-7pm video/conversation starter, 7-7:45pm making friends & sharing in groups of 6-8

WHAT IF I CAN'T MAKE IT?

- If you can't make it to Preview Night but want to come to other sessions, sign up but note that you will miss Preview Night in the special requests/comments box.
- If you miss another session, we can send you the video afterward upon request so you can watch it on your own.
- If you are unable to attend any of the first 3 sessions, we recommend you sign up for a future Alpha, when you can be more involved and get the most out of it.

WHAT KINDS OF QUESTIONS ARE ALREADY INCLUDED ON ALPHA?

- **On Preview Night:** Is there more to life than this?
- **On future nights we will discuss topics including:** Who is Jesus?, Why did Jesus die?, How can I have faith?, Why & how should I pray?, Why & how should I read the Bible, How Does God Guide Us?, Does God heal today?, What about the Church?, How can I resist evil?, and How and why should I tell others?
- **On the weekend retreat, topics include:** Who is the Holy Spirit?, What does the Holy Spirit do?, How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?, and How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

IS THERE A WEEKEND GETAWAY/RETREAT INCLUDED?

- **We typically offer an optional, Friday night/Saturday retreat** near the end of the Alpha course for all who wish to participate. It provides a good opportunity to step away and focus on one's spiritual life and goals, grow friendships, and connect with God.
- This session's retreat will be **Friday night, Feb. 26 until midday Saturday, Feb. 27**. Retreat location TBD, but will either be in town or just outside of town.
- **There is no cost for attendance or meals on the retreat.** Overnight stays at the location will be optional and overnight accommodations will be at the person's expense.

OTHER QUESTIONS?

- Share them with David Hillis, our Alpha Coordinator, at david@ovcn.church.