

**KEEP
CALM
AND
LET THE HOLY SPIRIT
GUIDE YOU**



"A PURPOSE?"
"ARE THERE MORE TO
"THAN THIS?"
"D?"

Alpha

**FIND OUT
ABOUT THE
ALPHA COURSE**

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WONDERING WHERE TO START?

*Here are a collection of ideas from
Neil...*

**COME HOLY SPIRIT,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire
of your love.
SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT
and they shall be created.
AND YOU SHALL RENEW
THE FACE OF THE EARTH**



Christian formation is the life long journey of growing and maturing in Christ: as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith.

Colossians 2.6.



The **Alpha Course** is one of the most popular, contemporary faith formation resources available.

A typical evening includes three elements: dinner, presentation and discussion. All three are important components of the Alpha Course. Check out the **Alpha Canada website** for information on training and preparation and to register your course.

Costs:

- free to download presentation
- cost of putting on a meal
- cost for guest booklets.



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

Christianity Explored comprises three short courses: Christianity Explored, Life Explored and Discipleship Explored. All are designed to introduce the Christian faith to seekers and to Christians who grow in their faith.

The core course Christianity Explored is 10 sessions over 7 weeks with an away day comprising 3 sessions. It is a relaxed and informal way of sharing faith, and gives people space and time to think about the big questions of life. Over seven sessions in Mark's Gospel, guests find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ.

Costs:

- HD downloads of all sessions \$34.99
- Participant book \$3.99



A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

The Pilgrim Course is an 8 week program for newcomers and those wishing to deepen their faith. Developed by the Church of England, each session in the course follows a similar format: worship, scripture study, reflection, a film, and discussion. Courses are designed for small groups and focus on core aspects of the Christian faith: Baptism, Lord's prayer, Creeds, Eucharist, Commandments, Beatitudes, Bible, Church and Kingdom. Each course is 6 weeks long and comes with a booklet (~12.00 ea.) and films that are available on **Youtube**.



Small Group ministry: sitting around the kitchen table
Imagine the conversations you have had sitting at your kitchen table. It's the place where we can be the most relaxed and the most real. We tell stories about our day, share our joys and problems, we listen and are listened to. It is the heart of any home. That is what a small group study it meant to be. Small groups are easy to do: you can run one at the Church, at someone's house or even meet in a pub, café or restaurant. You can even meet around a kitchen table! The point is to create the safest environment for sharing life and faith, and for growing together around the Scriptures and prayer. The best and more readily available resource is the Bible itself! Endlessly fascinating, you will never exhaust its riches. Even better, the Scriptures make themselves relevant to us today when we read them with open hearts and minds. Two related resources you can try are the Lectio Divina study and the Gospel-based Discipleship study. Both of these are simple to run and require minimal preparation on the part of the leader. Even better, they put the scriptures in the hands of the participants and help all feast on God's word.

cat·e·che·sis /ˌkədəˈkēsəs/ from Greek: κατήχησις, "instruction by word of mouth", generally "instruction")[1][2] is basic Christian religious education of children and adults.

People of all walks of life and faith perspectives want to engage with the questions of life and faith in an open-minded and engaging environment. There are some great resources available to help you develop your faith formation ministry.



Lectio Divina for Small Groups

One of the easiest ways to run a Bible study is to use the **Lectio method**. This requires the least amount of preparation on the part of the leader who chooses the passage and guides the conversation. Even better, it places Scriptures in the hands of the participants and helps them make meaning for themselves.



Lectio Divina Template

Step One - Gathering

You could start with an opening “check-in” with everyone in the group. How are you today? Have a time of fellowship over tea, coffee and conversation. Create the space: chairs should be in a circle; light some candles, perhaps begin with some helpful music to allow participants to relax and connect with God. Breathe. Have someone pray for the group as you begin and welcome Holy Spirit

Be silent in your group for a 1-2 minutes

Step Two – Reading the passage; three questions

Have some read the passage slowly out loud. Have a time of silence for 1-2 minutes.

Ask the question: what word, phrase or image stands out to you from the passage?

Share around the circle. Have a second person read the passage slowly out loud. Be

silent for a brief period of time. Ask the question: what is God saying to you through the

passage? Share around the circle. Have a third person read the passage slowly out

loud. Be silent for a brief period of time. Ask the question: What is God calling you to

do? Share around the circle.

You can always “pass”

Step Three – Pray together

Allow time for members of the group to share any prayer needs they might have. Have an open time of prayer. Encourage everyone to take any thoughts, feelings, actions, fears, convictions, and questions they have meditated on and offer them to the Lord in prayer. Go around the circle in a clockwise direction; participants are asked to pray for the person on their left. Even if they have not expressed a prayer need, pray God’s blessing on them.

If you haven’t already done so, have a time of fellowship over tea and coffee.



Gospel-based Discipleship

Developed in Canada by the Anglican Council for Indigenous Peoples. It is another way of doing a Lectio study, following the Lectionary Gospel readings.

Reading the Gospel: three questions

1. Read the Gospel – What word(s), idea(s), or phrase(s) stand out for you?
2. Read the Gospel – What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. Read the Gospel – What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?



Godly Play teaches children the art of using Christian language – parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action – helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God’s presence in their lives.

When Christian language is learned by the Godly Play approach, it is learned as a means to know God and to make meaning of our lives. This approach is quite different from the traditional model in which the teacher tells the children what they need to know. Godly Play is not about things that are that simple. It is not just about learning lessons or keeping children entertained. It is about locating each lesson in the whole system of Christian language and involving the creative process to discover the depths of meaning in them. It’s about understanding how each of the stories of God’s people connects with the child’s own experience and relationship with God. Godly Play respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God.