

## How will you get involved?

At last month's Gathering for all-ages I shared 'The top 30 impossible questions asked by children - revealed'. These included: how big is the world? What is electricity? Why is the sea salty, and where do babies come from? However, in my opinion 27 of them can't really be classed as impossible questions: slightly awkward in some cases, perhaps, but not impossible.

The three that I can see might leave some parents a little flummoxed are: what does God look like? How did the world begin, and where do you go when you die? Great questions - and if we're ever asked these as followers of Jesus, what an opportunity.

Is there more to life than this?  
Why and how do I pray?  
Does God heal today?

These three questions are considered within the Alpha Course. It's about providing a practical introduction to the Christian faith and the answers to these and other questions. On their website the story of Alpha is shared in how:

*Over 24 million people have tried Alpha in over 100 countries, and it has been translated into over 100 different languages. Developed as a short course at HTB in London, in 1990 Nicky Gumbel took over running Alpha and found that many people outside of the church wanted to explore the Christian faith. Alpha now runs in every part of the global church.*

In January, we're going to be launching two Alpha courses. Both will meet weekly running up until Easter. The first will be taking place on Monday mornings, beginning on the 20th - led by Peter and Pennie Woodcraft. Over cake and a cup of tea or coffee we'll be exploring the meaning of life, through a whole host of questions and revealing that Christianity can be every bit as relevant to life today as it was 2000 years ago. On Tuesday 21st January, we'll begin running an evening course - led by myself. This will start with a meal instead of cake, but will cover the same topics. The reason we're starting to talk about this now is because we need to be thinking how we can practically get involved:

*Who could you invite?*

Which neighbour, colleague or friend will you consider asking to come along? How will you be making this a matter for prayer over the coming weeks?

*What part will you play to make it happen?*

The team is already coming together, but we are still in need of more help, in particular cooks to cover the evening meals and people to facilitate the small group discussions. Could you help provide a meal one or more weeks, or commit to being there throughout the course?

Please speak to Peter, Pennie or myself to volunteer - the sooner the better. As we head on into the coming season of advent and as we gather together in various ways, we're going to be pointing people to this opportunity to find out more. May God use it to further His Kingdom and through our involvement may we each grow in him.

Be blessed

Ed Jones