

THE NEW ALPHA YOUTH SERIES

HEBREW 10:25- APRIL 5, 2018

What is the Alpha Youth Series?

Alpha is an interactive series (13 episodes over 9 weeks) exploring the basics of the Christian faith.

The NEW Alpha Youth Series includes:

- 13 episodes (average 23 minutes each) filmed all over the world (LA, London, Vancouver, New York, Jerusalem and more)
- 3 discussion starters per episode
- Downloadable discussion guide for each episode

What's with the new name?

The Alpha Youth Film Series has been given a brand new look and feel to meet the needs of a new generation. Part of the new branding update includes a new name: 'Alpha Youth Series'!

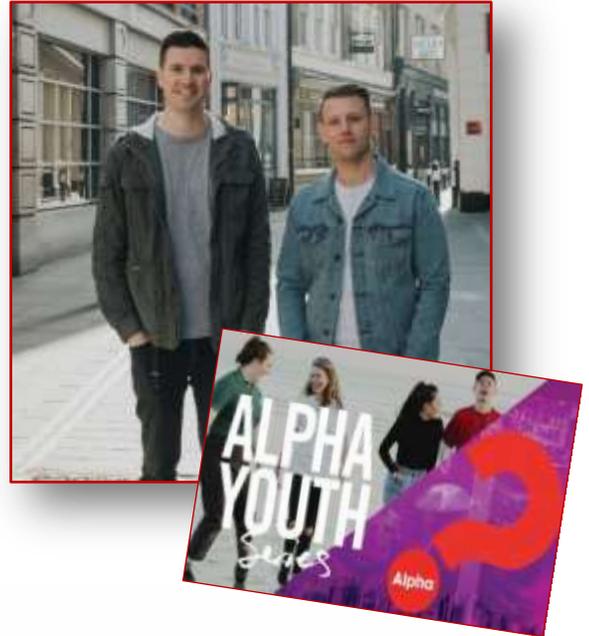
What's the difference between Alpha Youth Film Series and the new Alpha Youth Series?

- **New young hosts**
A new team of co-hosts will join Jason and Ben as they present the basics of the Christian faith together.
- **More global stories**
The new series will feature personal stories from people all around the world.
- **New branding and visuals**
The Alpha Youth Series will also have new and improved visuals to better engage with 13–18 year-olds.

What are the episodes about?

Each episode features a different question about life and faith. Here's the run-down:

- Episode 1 – Life: is this it?
- Episode 2 – Jesus: who is he?
- Episode 3 – Cross: why did Jesus die?
- Episode 4 – Faith: how can I have faith?
- Episode 5 – Prayer: why and how do I pray?
- Episode 6 – Bible: why and how do I read the bible?
- Episode 7 – Spirit: who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do?
- Episode 8 – Fill: how can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Episode 9 - New Life: how do I make the most of the rest of my life?
- Episode 10 – Evil: how can I resist evil?
- Episode 11 – Telling Others: why and how should I tell others?
- Episode 12 – Healing: does God heal today?
- Episode 13 – Church: what about the church?



Alpha Youth Series on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5N7H2T5Rmw&t=27s>

THE 2018 ALPHA CONFERENCE- PHOENIX

Jason and Ben on Youth: Considerations for Faith Formation



Faith Formation as safe place for:

- Youth working out their questions and doubts
- Why doesn't God always answer prayer?
- Instead of asking youth: what is the answer I gave you...
- Ask them: What do you think? Do you have doubts? Inspire a quest for the answers.
- Unconditional love...without strings attached

The academic approach alone: answers and tests

- Does not inspire curiosity, openness and seeking
- Jesus rarely answered a question directly
- He invited the struggle of the search

Piloting Faith Formation practices at Diocese of Green Bay

- Question: Are we preparing youth more for the ACRE test than life itself?

Archdiocese of Vancouver:

- Ben and Jay were asked to train diocesan staff.
 - o They challenged the staff to use Alpha for Youth and provide a safe place to express their beliefs.
 - o Promising results!

Starting Talking About How to Engage Parents:

Recommended Resource: *Family Ministry Field Guide- Timothy Paul Jones*

Book topics:

- Discover who your children really are
- We're supposed to do that at home?
- A matter of training and a matter of time
- Providing what parents really need
- Family-equipping transition | Faith talks | Faith walks

Laying the foundation- Get the conversation going and keep it going:

- Is your team walking the talk? Are they discipling their children at home?
- What parents in your parish have successfully passed on the faith to their children?
- How did they do it at home? Create a list of best practices.
- Gather the best teachers and communicators in your parish. How do they do it? Create a list of best teaching practices.

Getting parents in the door is a topic for another day. First consider...

- Working on vision and methods of equipping parents. Parents see the payoffs of academics and sports but not faith formation.
- *What are the payoffs of your faith formation classes? How do children benefit from it- in terms of everyday life? Can you articulate life's practical benefits (not just sacramental and catechetical benefits)?*

