

Small Group Ministries

Written by CPC member
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ALPHA ENHANCES SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE



Nancy Nelson, Katrina Lambert, Patty Walker, Nancy & Bruce Kirkpatrick, Darra Silverman and Melanie and Frank Carbrey. Not pictured: Rita vaRrijn, and Richard Lambert.

I WAS A SKEPTIC

Our small group, which has been together for a long time, decided to attend the January ALPHA class as a group. I went along with the decision, though I was skeptical about its value for those of us who have been long-time believers. I was also concerned that we wouldn't have time to fellowship and pray with each other as we were accustomed to doing.



I WAS WRONG

It turned out to be a profound experience for us as individuals and as a group, partly because of the

ALPHA format that included dinner and discussion time, which we were used to doing. It also became apparent that we had a divine appointment with a new believer who "happened" to sit at our table and was absorbed into our small group for the short time she had left to live on this earth. I saw the heart and mind of Christ at work through the loving and compassionate hearts within our small group.

WORTHY EXPERIENCE

I would encourage small groups to attend ALPHA as a group for many reasons. First, the video presenter, Nicky Gumbel covers a broad range of subjects regarding the faith in a way that is helpful

for newcomers and yet deep and rich and presented with new perspective for long-time believers. He covers subjects such as God the Father; Jesus the Son of God, why he came to die and why his claims need to be taken seriously; the Holy Spirit and what he does. I loved the way he talked about prayer, its meaning in our lives and how it works. He sprinkles his teaching with wonderful stories and still appeals to those who need a rational, grounded approach to belief.

I would highly recommend Alpha as a small group experience. It was a rich time for our group, and could very well bring a group to a new level of commitment as it did for us.