

YOUTH ALPHA
FEEDBACK FROM
LEADERS

Being part of the leadership team in Youth Alpha, I can see drastic changes in some of the youths. I can see that their we, leaders, advisors and youth get to bond more than usual during our normal youth session. We got to talk more about our life situation and how we can “talk things out” in groups and get to know more about each other. Besides bonding, we also got to reaffirm our faith in Christ through the videos. There’s time we youths found ourselves backsliding due to family issues, peer pressure from school, relationship problems, addiction and many, many more issues and we have totally no idea on how to face all these issues. Videos from the Youth Alpha Video Session greatly help us in reminding that we still have Jesus that we can totally depend on and that we should **“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”** 1 Peter 5:7. The leaders also got to learn how to lead small group of youths and how to minister them. It was a breakthrough for some of us that we got to pray for the youths and allow them to encounter God. There’s youth who got healed after the ministering session and some even felt the presence of Holy Spirit that they never encounter before. From all of this, we learned how to lead as a team and that leading is not a “one man show”. Even though at times, we do have different opinions on certain stuff and our opinion may cause some heaty discussion but that’s what a team was meant to be, talk things out and solve everything *together* and to love each with the love of Christ. Furthermore, relationship between advisors and youths have greatly increase after attending Youth Alpha. Advisors can know what the youths are currently facing with their lives during small chit-chats and discussion and how the advisors can help and pray for them. The food was superb and delicious and I can’t thank the advisors enough for their ability to get such good food. Finally, everything has a start and there’s an end for it. It has been some superb, fun, challenging and faithful 12 weeks of fellowship together in Youth Alpha. I pray that Youth Alpha may be a starting point for youths to devote their life to Christ and to carry their own cross. ²⁴**Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24 – Raymond Law**

Being part of the Alpha, I learned a lot of things from the video. During the weekend away session, I've learned how to minister them. At first I was very nervous as I doesn't know how to pray for people then the leaders helped me a lot and they encourage me that just follow my heart. It's a breakthrough for me as it's my first time. For the next session, I didn't get to join because of my school program but I still manage to get there on time when they were praying for their team members. When I get there they prayed for me too, they prayed for my lips as my lips is allergic and it will feel itchy and painful. After they prayed, I feel much better and it doesn't feel itchy anymore. I am thankful for the food prepared by advisors. And now Youth Alpha has end, I hope that we will always remember what we have learned from the video. – **Serena Chong**

From the 12 weeks of Alpha Youth, I have learnt a great deal about my own faith, revisited and strengthened the basis and foundations of it and encountered God in different ways. From going through the sessions, I really treasured the opportunity of re-learning God's Word and what it means to be a daughter of God. The videos were simple, attractive and impactful in conveying the message of salvation and God's love for us.

From being a group facilitator, I have grown a lot as well. I especially learnt on relying on God when met with challenges like difficult questions or problems met by youth in my group. I also feel more connected to the youth, especially the younger groups as I get to listen to them share more and step out of their shell as the weeks went by. I am amazed when I see how God works and speaks to people in different ways and am excited to see them coming back, longing to learn more. It inspires me to pursue my relationship with God more passionately as well.

As for the leadership team, Alpha Youth has been an experience that has built us up to be even more tight-knit and united. We – advisors and youth, got to bond over debriefing and help each other out with advise and encouragement. It was a time that I cherish as it's like a 'heart-to-heart' conversation. We were also taught to step out of our comfort zone in ministering to the youth during Holy Spirit Weekend and also praying over them during the week on Healing. Over all, I feel that the committee is even more united with Christ as our centre and our head.

Ending the course, I pray that the seeds that have been sown in the hearts of the youth over the past weeks will continue to grow and manifest and that we will all grow as a youth to be children of God that are set apart and live for His glory. – **Grace Law**

Exploring life faith and God. This course is definitely a great way for us, as leaders, to get to know the rest of the youths a lot better. Alpha youth is the concept of how a youth should be like. Learning more of God, great fellowship together and keeping the atmosphere lively and youthful. A pastor once preached that a great youth fellowship is when all 4 'f's are completed: faith, fellowship, fun and food.

Throughout this entire course, I could see changes here and there in not only ourselves but in the other youths as well. I think the reason behind is because they feel more and more comfortable around us each week. Because of that, they feel accepted here and are more open to share with us their thoughts and feelings. I do not think the disagreements in our discussions were a bad thing as we got to think deeper into the questions and see things in different perspectives. I believe that we as leaders have learned a new way of leading a group and a better way to reach out to others. What I've personally taken back from these 12 weeks was that we can't always expect others to have drastic changes in a short amount of time, but we can be supportive and not to neglect them. It is, in a lot of times, the small things we do that makes a difference.

Youth alpha has become a reminder to us that God is in control and how our prayers are very important. The past 12 weeks were not all fun and easy, but knowing how the leadership team (including the advisors and pastor) had each other's back, I believe that it has strengthen our relationship with each other as well. I do think alpha was a success not just because of the large numbers we had but the stronger relationship each of us have with God. There are testimonies of youths who encountered healing and new insights. God was, no doubt, with us the entire journey. I hope the youths will continue to join and fellowship with us and grow deeper with God. – **Eunice Song**

During open discussions in alpha allowed me to listen to others talk and share. It gives me a glimpse into where their relationship with God is at. Alpha is a simple introductory course to Jesus. The healings, teachings, encounters, sharings etc.. were awesome and I am thankful for it but we must anticipate even more from God now. I'm eager and excited to step into a season where we can go deeper. I personally believe there is a lot more that God wants to reveal of Himself and ourselves to us. I know God is rising up leaders now. I really like the culture of sharing in alpha. I think we can continue that in youth where youths can reach out to youths through sharing. An opportunity where we encourage ppl to share of what the lord has done to them. Alpha's evangelical, reaching out style coincides with what God was teaching me personally so definitely it was a good opportunity for me to respond to God. I think our whole youth has bonded more and strengthened friendships, get to know each other more. Alpha required alot of team effort. Personally I have learnt to trust each other, listen and learn and work it out together just being humble and serving each other.

- **Shamus Sim**

Alpha was great. It was the first program that I facilitate wholly based on the Spirit. Before this, whenever we had Bible group study, I panicked as I didn't know if I answered the others' questions or did God touch their hearts through me in that session. Every single alpha session to me triggers a different perspective towards the very basic understanding of Christianity. Being a facilitator, I learnt how to pose questions based on every situation and every individual. It's no doubt Alpha had taught me how to evangelise among the middle class, or among our friends and peers. I never knew how to approach peers who don't see the need of having a supernatural being in their lives. Alpha is designed in such a way that there is no excessive pressure or forceful intention to convert others. This makes everything more comfortable as everyone gets to discuss life's great big questions without being discriminated or judged. I would like to thank God for the passion that He has placed in every of our hearts to reach out to young people. May we continue to shine for Him. Glory be to God.- **Ong Rui Jie**