



FAQs

If you have additional questions, contact Curric-U-Phone at 1.800.251.8591 or curricuphone@cokebury.com.

What sort of training is available for the director and small-group leaders?

All the information required for training *and* planning this study is contained in the Director's Manual. The Director's Manual also includes instructions for conducting two training sessions for the small-group leaders.

An optional Webcast training session, given by the authors, was archived and is available by calling (828) 452-2912.

What are some points of comparison between *Alpha* and *Beginnings*?

Both *Alpha* and *Beginnings* are introductions to Christian faith. Both involve individual study and group interaction, begin meetings with a meal, present concepts through the use of video, encourage group discussion of concepts, and engage the mind and the heart. There are differences in viewpoint and theological perspective.

How can I introduce this program to others in my congregation?

We suggest that you make use of the tools we provide, free of charge, to share your excitement about *Beginnings*. There's a free promotional video for use at a congregational meeting, along with presentation speeches and an information sheet to distribute. Once the program itself begins, you can make use of the two posters and the *Beginnings* logos to advertise the program to people inside and outside the congregation.

Is *Beginnings* only for United Methodists?

No. Although *Beginnings* explores Christian faith from a Wesleyan perspective, other denominations will find *Beginnings* suitable as well.

Does the pastor have to teach the first session?

No. Anyone who can create a welcoming atmosphere can lead the first session.

What is in the *Along the Way* resource?

Along the Way is a book that further explores the questions and issues that are introduced on the video and discussed in the small group. The chapter titles correspond to the weekly session questions (for example, Chapter 1 is entitled, "So, Is This All There Is?"). *Along the Way* goes into more detail, presents additional examples, and gives the reader more to think about during the time between *Beginnings* sessions. Directors and small-group leaders will want to be sure to read this companion book; it is optional for your small-group participants but recommended.

Won't the "Love Feast" in Session 12 confuse people? Where can I read up on this?

We recommend you review your church's teaching about the Love Feast (if you are United Methodist, see pages 581-584 in the *Book of Worship*).

We don't have a fellowship hall. Do we have to have a meal?

The meal plays a vital role in *Beginnings* because it helps create an atmosphere of relaxation and common experience. It is the first place for members of the small group to get to know one another and feel comfortable talking with one another. If you have a small church and no fellowship hall, please consider meeting in a member's home or apartment. The video material is furnished in both VHS and DVD formats to facilitate such choices.

Can we offer a *Beginnings* group on Sunday morning?

Yes. You can offer a *Beginnings* group any time you would have a class to introduce new members or inquirers to the basics of Christian faith. However, 45 minutes is not enough time for *Beginnings*. Each session lasts 2 hours. Examine the Director's Manual carefully before you decide when to host *Beginnings*.

Can we get a quantity discount?

Yes. Quantity discounts apply to the print pieces for *Beginnings*.