

Arlene Chavez

When I first attended Alpha, I came simply as a guest. I remember thinking, "This is really good information." Some of it I already knew, and some of it was new to me. I enjoyed the experience, but honestly, I didn't think Alpha would have a major impact on my own life.

The second time I attended, I had the privilege of serving as a table host. Then, during the very last weekly meeting, everything changed. A serious family emergency came up involving my niece. It was the kind of situation where help was urgently needed, and suddenly Alpha was no longer just a program it became something deeply personal.

After speaking with Father Martin, I told him I was thinking about trying a small, informal Alpha-style gathering to help my niece and support our family. We started just one week after Alpha ended.

Four weeks later, what began with about seven people has grown to just under twenty. Most are family members, but some are not. We come together to talk, pray, listen, and support one another.

I can't say that we've already seen dramatic, life changing events. But I can say something that means a great deal to me: the person who needs help the most is showing up. She is attending, and that is a beginning. I can also say that family members who believed in God but had not been practicing their faith are now participating and reconnecting with their spiritual lives.

Looking back, I realize that without Alpha, I would not have known where to start. Alpha gave me the confidence, the structure, and the courage to take a first step when my family needed it most. For me, Alpha was not just a series of meetings, it became a way for God to open a door that I never expected. And for that, I am truly grateful.