## **Andy Kennedy**

## "God has helped my marriage so much that it's now burning brightly."



As a child, I went to a Catholic church and school. My Dad took me along even though I didn't really understand what was going on. In my teens, I joined a Christian youth group where my faith began to develop.

In my late teens, I met my wife and we've now been together for 17 years. However, it hasn't been the perfect marriage and at times we've been on the verge of splitting up. In November 2014, we wanted to move house to try and make a fresh start. I asked a friend who came to Trent Vineyard to pray for us. I remember the words I used: "Will you pray for me and Catrina and ask God to get us this house and if we get it I'll come back to church!"

Amazingly we got the house, but it was far from a fresh start. Within the first few months our marriage was breaking down even more. I tried to handle it myself, but I knew things were getting to the point where I couldn't hold it together. So I asked God to give me answers of how to sort out the mess. Soon after that, a friend told me about the Alpha course at Trent Vineyard, which was all about finding answers to questions about life, faith and God. The course started with a Friday night launch event, which my wife and I really enjoyed so we decided to sign up.

While going along to Alpha, I started to realise how my wife had been feeling and what I should do to help our marriage get back on track again. Things were improving, but then my wife's world fell apart when her family turned their back on her. I found this very difficult, but decided to turn to God with my questions asking why He'd have allowed this to happen?

During this tough time, I really wanted to connect with God in a new way and one Sunday service during worship, I had a powerful experience with the Holy Spirit. It was so amazing that it left me in floods of tears. I knew God was there and was listening. I realised He'd been carrying me though the hard times and through my doubts.

Since then, I've been steadily growing in my faith. Knowing Jesus has given me a new confidence and has helped me open up where before I used to keep things locked away. This has helped improve all my relationships especially my marriage. God has helped my marriage so much that it's now burning brightly. People I thought I'd lost are now back in my life and I thank God for that. He did this for me and I've given my life to follow Him.