



SESSION 6 | April 9, 2023

Alpha Prayer Points

1. Pray for the people of FPC to engage with non-Christians and those who are searching to invite them to Alpha.
2. Pray for God to raise up people to serve with this Alpha. Our needs include 15-20 hosts at the tables and hospitality providers—who can commit eight Thursday evenings beginning April 13. Join us in also praying for a dedicated prayer team for this Alpha.
3. Pray for God to be working in the hearts of those He wants to be a part of this Alpha whether they are non-Christians or Christians who are searching.

How Did It Go

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Psalm 113-118 were recited by Passover pilgrims as they journeyed toward Jerusalem. As you slowly read these Psalms, what prophecies did you see pointing forward to Jesus?
- As Jesus' Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem was getting under way, Luke 19:37-38 depicts a "whole crowd of disciples" ready and willing to lift their voices. Who in your network and neighborhood came to mind to invite to join you for coffee, a church activity, or a Sunday service to draw them to Jesus?
- How has reflecting on Jesus' Triumphal Entry shaped your prayer life?

Read Aloud the Passage

Luke 24:1-35

Discuss

HEAD | 10–15 MINUTES

Observe the text and the author's main points.

1. At the conclusion of Luke 23, women who journeyed with Jesus to Jerusalem go see where he is buried, then return home to prepare spices and perfumes to anoint his body. However, observing the Sabbath prevents them from doing so right away; they have to wait. What would have been their state of mind upon returning to the tomb later (in verses 1-3)? How would you feel if you were in their place?
2. Each of the gospel writers emphasize the importance of these women's testimony (see Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, and John 20:1-10), though they are initially disbelieved. The word Luke employs, "nonsense" or "idle tale," was used "to refer to the delirious stories told by the very sick as they suffer in great pain or to tales told by those who fail to perceive reality." What prompts Peter to return to the grave?
3. Have you ever experienced being disbelieved, as the women did, for something you knew to be true?
4. In verse 27, we read, "Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." What Scriptures do you think He highlighted? Why is it important that Jesus fulfill the story of Israel?

HEART | 15–20 MINUTES

Envision how the text—when applied—might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

1. At the end of verse 24, Cleopas and his companion still don't see Jesus for who He really is, which is a common theme in the Book of Luke. "Doubting Thomas" gets a lot of press, but he is not the only one who has questions. What questions have you asked in your spiritual journey? How has God met you in those places?
2. In verses 28-32, Jesus' disciples extend Him hospitality. However, once inside their home, the guest becomes the host! While Jesus attends a lot of meals throughout the Gospel of Luke, this one is clearly different. How could this practice of hospitality equip you to make greater space for Jesus "at your table"? How could it encourage you to make space for others?
3. Luke's account highlights a number of different reactions to Jesus' resurrection: Ignorance (verse 8), disbelief (verse 11), wonder (verse 12), a posture of openness (verse 29), receiving the good news with joy (verse 32) and going out to tell others (verses 33-35). Where do you find yourself this Holy Week? While these responses are seen in different people, they could also be a kind of continuum in our own lives. Where would you place yourself? How could you take the next step in obedience?

HANDS | 10 MINUTES

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others.

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Spend time this week reading through passages from the Scriptures that point forward to Jesus: Deuteronomy 18:15, Psalm 2:7, Psalm 16, 22, 110, and 118; Isaiah 52-53, Daniel 7:13-14, and, in preparation for our new series Overboard!, the book of Jonah (it's short).
- Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal those in your network and neighborhood with whom you could share the good news of Easter..

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Commit to reaching out to those whom God brought to mind, to engage in hospitality. Keep in mind our benediction from last Sunday from 1 Peter 3:15: "In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." What one or two invitations could you make this week?

Reaching Beyond

- In light of your knowledge of the good news, what tangible steps are you taking to participate in His ministry of reconciliation? How can your group support ALPHA?