



## Small Group Guide | Session 1

### Alpha Prayer Points

**Pray** for the people of FPC to engage with non-Christians and those who are searching to invite them to Alpha.

**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.

**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.

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### HOW DID IT GO?

- Who did God reveal to you in your network and neighborhood to share the good news of Easter? What steps are you taking to do that?
- What one or two invitations have you extended for coffee or a meal to begin to build a relationship of friendship and trust with someone? Have you had people come to mind but have not acted on the invitation yet? Can you do that this week?
- What was your reaction when you read the book of Jonah in preparation for this study?

Read aloud the passages for this week: **Jonah 1:1-3**.

## **HEAD** | Observe the text and the author's main points.

1. What was the Lord's message in verses 1 and 2?
2. How did Jonah react in verse 3?
3. Describe some of the details of what Jonah did.

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

1. When have you had a “runaway posture” in your life? When have you felt God leading you in one direction, but you ignored it and went another direction? Describe the feelings, actions, and consequences associated with that decision. How were you led back to the right path?
2. When have you been surprised by God? What are surprising ways God has led you?
3. How would you describe God's mission for your life?

## **HANDS** | 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

- The text says in verse 1 that “The word of the Lord came to Jonah.” Reflect on ways you tend to experience God's guidance. How can you create that space this week to hear from him?
- How could you sharpen your “listening and obeying” skills towards God? Pray for discernment and responsiveness to God's leading in your life.
- How might you seek to understand God's mission for your life? What small but practical steps could you take this week to grow in this understanding? How could you begin to align the way you spend your time with that mission?

### Reaching Outward | Investing in Your Neighbors

- In light of God's sometimes surprising call, are you open to whomever God might be asking you to invite to ALPHA, no matter how unlikely? Pray for the courage to ask God who He would have you invite, and then for the courage to do so!
- How does remembering that everyone is made in God's image help with the decision to reach out to an unlikely person to develop a relationship of trust and friendship?

### Reaching Beyond

- What service in the world is God calling you to? God called Jonah to go to “the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” Where might

God be calling you to serve that you have been reluctant to obey? What neighbors/neighborhoods, missionaries, or community groups could you support with prayer, service, hospitality, and/or financial support?