

OVERBOARD!



Small Group Guide | Session 2

Alpha Prayer Points

Pray for the people of FPC to engage with non-Christians and those who are searching to invite them to Alpha; it's still open to newcomers through 4/27.

Pray for God to raise up people to serve with this Alpha, as well as for those who are already committed to serve, that God would shine His light and love through them.

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?

- What did God reveal to you about sharpening your “listening and obeying” skills towards God? How were you able to create that space to hear from him?
- If your vocation or calling is where “your deep gladness meets the world’s deep need” (Frederick Buechner quoted by Pastor Curtis in his April 16 sermon on Jonah 1:1-3), how have you sought to understand God’s calling for your life? What small but practical steps did you take this week to grow in this understanding? How did you begin to align the way you spend your time with that mission?
- Did you consider where God may be calling you to serve that you have been reluctant to obey? What neighbors/neighborhoods, missionaries, or community groups came to mind to support with prayer, service, hospitality, and/or financial support?

Read aloud the passages for this week: **Jonah 1:4–6**.

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

1. What was the sailors' response to the storm? What was their motivation?
2. What was Jonah's response to the storm? What was his motivation?
3. What was the captain's response to the storm? What was his motivation?

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

1. The text indicates that the Lord caused a great storm in response to Jonah's disobedience. How does this fit (or clash) with your understanding of—and response to—storms in your own life?
2. What does it say about Jonah's internal condition that he was sleeping during a storm that put him in mortal peril? How does this resonate in your life?
3. What does it say about Jonah's internal condition that even in dire circumstances he never prayed, even when commanded by the captain of his ship? Can you relate?

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

- Is your day-to-day life essentially prayerless? Ask God to reveal the cause, and pray for the desire to pray. You can start by simply telling God that you desire to want to pray.
- Are you running from something you know God has called you to do? Seek His strength to acknowledge your avoidance and take a step toward obedience.
- How have you reacted to the storms in your life? Have they drawn you closer to God or pulled you away from Him?

Reaching Outward | Investing in Your Neighbors

- Are you sleeping through a situation that requires response—perhaps despite calls from God or others to get up? Pray for the courage to act, and the wisdom to make a first step toward responding well.
- Our response to a crisis—whether ours or someone else's—can be a powerful witness to others of our relationship with Jesus. Discuss actual or hypothetical responses to a crisis that will point others to Jesus.

Reaching Beyond

- Jonah lived in a multicultural society. Each of the sailors on the ship “cried out to his own god.” (v. 5a). Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the world. How is God inviting you to become familiar with some of those cultures? What steps can you take this week to understand some of the vibrant varieties of cultures in Houston?