



GOD'S GOOD NEWS

Week 2

Alpha Prayer Points

1. Pray for God to be working in the hearts of those who came to Spring 2023 Alpha and who are continuing to meet in twice-monthly post-Alpha groups, especially those who attended the September 14 post-Alpha groups. These groups meet for dinner, a lesson, and spirited discussion.
2. Pray for those who came to the September 16 Movie and Taco Night that they would be led to visit FPC and, most importantly, to know Jesus. Pray that others from previous Alpha groups visit FPC on Sundays and that FPC would be welcoming.
3. Fall 2023 Alpha starts October 26th at 8 am. Pray that Presbyterian School parents come, and that there is momentum for others to join this upcoming Alpha session.

How Did it Go?

10 Minutes

- What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you about "other gospels" you are prone to look to or follow after?
- In what ways have you noticed that you are susceptible to seeking the favor of humans rather than the favor of God?
- How are you serving this fall to bring the gospel to life for your neighbors and neighborhood?

Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **GALATIANS 1:11-2:10**.

Head

15-20 Minutes

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS

1. How does Paul validate his ministry to the Galatians?
2. What characterized Paul's religious life before becoming a Christian?
3. How do the goals of the false believers compare to Paul's goals? See verses 2:4-5.

Heart

15-20 Minutes

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

1. How did Paul seek unity among different cultures and perspectives when he talked with church leaders about the circumcision issue? How is this a model for us when there are potential points of disagreement between Christians?
2. Think about how you would prepare for a meeting that could have a generational impact. How does Paul's choice of Barnabas, a Pharisee convert, and Titus, a younger church-planting Gentile pastor, to join him for an important meeting with the Jerusalem apostles, help you decide who you would bring with you?

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

- Jesus calls, equips, and sends his servants. In what ways are you called, equipped, and sent? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to fill any gaps.
- In 1:15, Paul says that God set him apart from his mother's womb and called him by His grace. How does it resonate with you that you were set apart from your mother's womb and called by God's grace?

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Paul uses a simple way to explain his conversion: (1) before he met Jesus (v. 14-15), (2) when he met Jesus (v. 15), and (3) now how his life is different because he knows Jesus. Use this outline to draft a brief “elevator speech” about your conversion answering the following questions: What were you like before meeting Jesus? When did Jesus find you? Now, how is your life different? Practice this in your small group, and look for opportunities to share this with others, especially non-Christians.
- Pray through the ALPHA prayer points (listed above) this week.

Reaching Beyond

- The passage this week concludes with the recounting that James, Peter, and John encouraged Paul, Barnabas, and Titus to remember the poor. In what ways are you remembering the poor on a regular basis?
- Join a prayer walk around Cullen Middle School on Wednesday, September 20. Contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator at mweir@fpchouston.org for more information.
- Mark your calendar for lunch time on September 28: the Local Mission Partner Field Trip to Open Door Mission, a faith and evidence-based recovery program and facilities dedicated to helping the unsheltered population in Houston. To RSVP and for more details, contact mweir@fpchouston.org.