



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Session 1 – Love the City

To Begin

What is your favourite vacation destination? If you could travel anywhere for vacation, where would it be?

Digging Deeper

In this session, we will be looking at the story of Jonah, particularly at the end of his journey after he went to Nineveh. If you are unfamiliar with the story, I would encourage you to spend some time in Jonah this week to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of his journey. We come to Jonah in Jonah chapter 4 where Jonah is particularly upset with the way God handled the situation. Jonah was angry because things didn't turn out in the way he expected.

Let's read Jonah 4:1-11 and then watch Session 1.

- Why was Jonah greatly displeased and angry? Did these things give him any right to be angry?
- What location or what people in our city are most like the Ninevites? How can we reach these people specifically?
- What is our church doing to reach these people? Is there a way that our group can reach out to these people?
- In what ways do the comforts of life that we enjoy prevent us from being what God wants us to be and from doing what God wants us to do?
- How often do we get upset when our life doesn't go as planned? What's the proper way of approaching God when situations are out of our control?
- What resonates most with your heart about the story of Jonah?

Live it out

We want to be a church that reaches into our neighbourhoods with love and compassion even with the people that seem to be our enemies.

- Is there someone that makes you angry? Have you ever thought of how you could extend love to this person?
- What is God's mission for your life?

There are so many opportunities for our small group to reach out and show love and compassion to the people around us.

Sometimes it's just a matter of being selfless instead of selfish.

We need to start turning our eyes outward instead of always looking inward. Let us be a church and community of believers that shares the love of Jesus in a real and practical way.

Leader note: Ask the group to see where they believe God is calling them to reach out in their world. If you need some help, don't hesitate to ask the church, we'd love to help you and your group!

Prayer & Praise Points

Session 2 – Do Good for the City

To Begin

If you could have an unlimited supply of one thing, what would it be?

Digging Deeper

Let's read Jeremiah 29:1-7 and then watch Session 2.

Community Prayer Walks

Prayer walking is exactly what it sounds like: praying while walking. It's an active strategy that calls us to identify specific places and physically go out to cover those locations in prayer.

Let's move outside the four walls of the church building and pray on city sidewalks for the people and places around us. When you go out on your prayer walk, different sights, smells, and sounds will prompt you to pray in ways that you would probably never think of if you were to pray from a remote location.

Steps to Prayer Walking

Here are some steps to keep in mind when doing a prayer walk.

Identify streets, neighbourhoods, and key areas central to the community's spiritual and social well being.

Invite others to join you. Think about who you'd like to have join you on your prayer walk.

Map out your route and set a date.

Prep your neighbours. You may want to let them know what you're doing and that you're taking an active roll in the community.

Put people into teams. You don't want an oversized group walking the streets. Send people in twos or threes, so that more ground can be covered.

Set a time frame. It doesn't need to be an all day event. Limit your walk to one or two hours.

Be discreet. Let's be a quiet presence in our neighbourhoods as we walk; this isn't meant to be a show, and it's not about us.

Pray as specifically as you can. Pray for spiritual breakthroughs, individuals and families, peace, safety, vocational and educational needs and any other needs you know of.

Pause at strategic places. Be silent and wait for God to speak. Listen to the activities around you. Listen for the Holy Spirit's voice.

This week, there are no discussion questions. This week we want you to take your group outside, wherever you're meeting, and spend time prayer walking. If you know of an opportunity for First Alliance Church to get involved in the community, please contact Al Hall, our Community Impact Pastor by e-mail ahall@faccalgary.com or by phone 403-212-8842. You can also follow Community Impact on Twitter [@faccalgary_CI](https://twitter.com/faccalgary_CI) and use the hashtag #FACFortheCity to share your memorable moments with us!

Praise & Prayer Points

Session 3 – Together for the City

To Begin

What is your idea of a fun day?

Digging Deeper

Let's read 1 Peter 4:7-11 and then watch Session 3.

One of the major themes in 1 Peter is this idea of standing firm in the faith even in the face of suffering and persecution. In the midst of persecution and suffering, Peter encourages us to live a holy life dedicated to God. In 1 Peter Chapter 4, Peter is giving us directions on how to live in the view of the end of all things. Knowing that Jesus will return should influence our attitudes, our actions, and our relationships. Through the difficulties of life, we know that Jesus will be returning for us, his bride, one day.

- How do you love to spend your free time?
- Why does it seem that our free time can often slip away?
- How can we make our time count for eternity?
- What are some simple and easy ways to be hospitable towards others?

The second coming of Jesus is the next greatest and most exciting event in our time. The New Testament never says when it will take place but the validity of his coming is never questioned. As followers of Jesus we are encouraged to watch for it and wait with anticipation.

- What kind of attitude should we have toward Jesus' return? Why?
- What advice did Peter give believers to help keep a balanced outlook concerning Jesus' return? How can we obey these commands in specific, practical ways today?



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