

CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

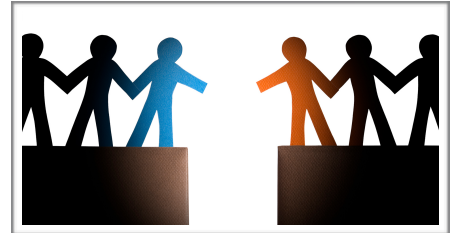
UNC-CHAPEL HILL

FEBRUARY 2018



Hope, Race, and Injustice

In February, we spent three Large Group meetings processing racial reconciliation in our culture. The challenges we face as a society continue to grow in severity and complexity. So often, the fear of saying the wrong thing keeps us from saying anything. It is difficult to process, especially when Scripture pushes deeper that the problem with the world isn't OUT THERE, but in my own heart. How can we be a part of the conversation to provide hope and healing in this area of racism on campus particularly? **We want the gospel to shape students** in Cru to be learners of those who are different from them. Pray for conversations in this area and that we would grow in our compassion and understanding for our minority brothers and sisters.



Pray for the Smiths

- Pray for **Charleston summer mission**. We are pretty low on student numbers so far, unfortunately. Pray God would put it on students' hearts to join us and that we would have the 30 students we need to make the mission happen.

- Pray for our annual **Women's Beach Retreat** (April 6-8). Pray many girls come and that it would be a time of authenticity and growth.

- Pray for **spring break**. UNC Cru will be taking 40 students to Florida to help with continued hurricane relief work. (March 10-17)

-Pray for our **family**. We are loving this stage with the kids (Harrison is 6, Allie is 2). Pray we would shepherd the kids' hearts well and for time to connect with each other in the midst of the busyness of life.

Men's Retreat 2018



A 9000 square foot vacation home set in the Smoky Mountains was the backdrop for a fun time to connect as men. 66 UNC guys participated in the weekend

and we are hopeful that it was a significant space for guys to consider how to place Jesus more at the center of their lives. I (Josh) got to lead a time through Psalm 23. Guys spent time in groups observing and applying things from the passage. It was a rich time of being reminded that God is our Good Shepherd.

Here's what some guys said they learned from the weekend:

-“I don't trust others enough and I definitely don't trust Jesus enough. I need to let go of a lot of things in my life that I feel like I can't change/don't want to change and focus more on God.”

-“I learned how much I substituted women in place of God in many ways and how I need to grow closer to Him.”

-“God showed me just how willing to forgive he is. This is an incredible thing, especially after seeing all the ways that we all fall short.”