

# CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

JUNE / JULY 2023

## Summer Small Group



### Prayer requests

-Pray for fruit from the **summer Bible study**. Pray the students that attended would grow in understanding and love of the Lord.

-Pray for our **Leadership Retreat** (Aug 13-17.) We will have a few days as a staff team to reconnect and plan and then students will join us to be trained in their upcoming roles with Cru.

-Pray for **incoming freshmen**. Pray God would put it on the hearts of new students to seek out spiritual growth during college. Pray for opportunities for meaningful conversations in the first few weeks of the semester.

-My role next year will include leading an **upperclassmen** Bible study. Pray I would shepherd those students well.

This summer has flown by! As I mentioned in my last letter, this summer we hosted an eight week Bible study at our house for students in Chapel Hill. We wrapped it up last week and it was such a highlight of the past two months. We studied Jonah. Leading students through what we thought was a familiar story challenged us all with a lot of depth. We started with just a few students but grew to have 10-12 joining us most weeks (pictured below). My heart for students is that they would grow in knowing how to study Scripture for themselves. Pray with me that our time in Jonah would be a springboard to them doing just that!

There were many takeaways for us as we learned about Jonah (with the help of a Tim Keller commentary). We talked about how sin always leads to storms in our life. We talked about how we are quick to judge Jonah but if we take a closer look, we find ourselves written into the narrative. We talked about God's relentless pursuit of us, even when we run the other way. We also observed God's compassion for those who don't know Him. His compassion should drive us to embody that as well. As Keller says, "real compassion, the voluntary attachment of our hearts to others, means the sadness of their condition makes us sad; it affects us. That is deeply uncomfortable, but it is the character of compassion."



This summer has also been full of a lot of good family time. We went to Kiawah Island and North Myrtle Beach over July 4th (picture above left having lunch in Charleston). The kids have had VBS, day camps, swim team and lots of fun with neighborhood friends. We celebrate Harrison turning 12 years old on July 30!

Harrison and Allie will start school on August 28 (6th and 2nd grade). I will actually start things back up on campus even earlier. The fall semester starts on August 21. Thanks for your support and prayers!