

RECAP

As a group, share how long you've attended Salem Alliance Church and what initially drew you to this church body.

IDEA 1

As you attended this week's service and got to read/skim over this year's annual booklet with your group, reflect on some of the main emphasis in this week's service and booklet. Use these questions as your guide:

What are some of the highlights of church life that stand out to you from this last year?

What is something SAC is currently doing for or with the community that surprised you?

Was there anything that SAC is doing that you would like to be more involved with this upcoming year?

IDEA 2

Reflecting on some of the celebrations and wins from this last year, begin to dream about what next year could look like for your group.

As a life group, what do you believe are some of the *new things* God is calling your community to?

What kind of season do you believe your life group is in? What does that entail for this upcoming year?

What are some of the concrete ways your life group looks to further the vision of "to see our city at peace with God"

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

With your life group read this Liturgical Prayer titled, *The Labors of Community*:

Leader: Our lives are so small, O Lord

People: **Our vision so limited,**

Our courage so frail,

Our hours so fleeting.

Therefore give us grace and guidance for the journey ahead

We are gathered here because we believe that we are called together into a work we cannot yet know the fullness of.

Still, we trust the voice of the One who has called us.

And so we offer to you, O God, these things:

Our dreams, our plans, our vision.

Shape them as you will.

Our moments and our gifts.

May they be invested toward bright, eternal ends.

Richly bless the work before us, Father.

Shepherd us well lest we grow enamored of our own accomplishments or entrenched in old habits. Instead let us listen for Your voice, our hearts ever open to the quiet beckoning of Your Spirit in this endeavor.

Let us in true humility and poverty of spirit remain ever ready to move at the impulse of your love in paths of your design.

You alone, O God, by your gracious and life-giving Spirit have power to knit our imperfect hearts, our weaknesses, our strengths, our stories, and our gifts, one to another.

Unite your people and multiply our meager offerings, O Lord, that all might resound to Your glory.

May our acts of service and creation, frail and wanting as they are, be met and multiplied by the mysterious workings of your Spirit who weaves all things together toward a redemption more good and glorious than we yet have eyes to see, or courage to hope for.

May our love and our labors now echo your love and your labors, O Lord.

Let all that we do here, in these our brief lives, in this our brief moment to love, in this the work you have ordained for this community, flower in winsome and beautiful foretaste of greater glories yet to come. - Douglas Kaine McKelvey in *Every Holy Moment*

NEXT STEPS

For this next week, prayerfully consider how God may be asking you to grow this upcoming season. Consider using SAC core values as a guide.

Life with Jesus

- What spiritual practice does God want me to commit to in order to deepen my intimacy with him?

Life Together

- How does God want me to grow more within the context of my community?

Life on Mission

- What is one way God wants me to partner with him in my spheres of influence?