

## REFLECT

Last week was our annual Vision 360 service, where we look back at what God has done and look forward to what God is doing.

**Reflecting on last week's service, what was one highlight and story that stood out to you? With the beginning of kickoff, what are you looking forward to as a Life Group?**

## IDEA 1

The book of Ephesians is inviting us to both comprehend and respond to the most important revelation in history – which is the life, death & resurrection of Jesus and God's eternal purpose to unify all things in heaven and on earth under him. Ephesians focuses on God's plan is to have a huge family of restored human beings – both Jews and Gentiles - who are unified in Jesus the Messiah.

**How would you say the revelation of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection changed how you saw things?**

**What are some ways Ephesians is inviting us to respond in light of this new revelation?**

## IDEA 2

Christ is the blessed one, and Christ is the vehicle of the blessing. So, being united with Christ, or living "in Christ" (as it's translated in other versions) is the key to the spirit-given blessings. When we are in him, the spirit-given blessings are innately, naturally, automatically ours.

**Describe the Scripture's story arc of blessing among your group as Anya presented it. What struck you about this presentation?**

**How would you define the term/idea of *blessing*? What exactly is the spiritual blessing we've inherited?**

**What does it practically mean to be *united with Christ* or to be *in Christ*?**

## EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

### Group Devotional Reading

As you finish your discussions on the sermon, take some time to read Ephesians 1:1-23 passage out loud. **Use the Ephesian Weekly Audio Reflections as a companion to this experience. You can access the audio reflection on the Life Group Resource page on the Salem Alliance Church website.** As you listen to the audio reflections, have each member listen for a word or phrase that God highlights for them.

Consider having one or two people share what God is highlighting. Then, spend a few minutes in prayerful thanksgiving.

## PRACTICE THIS WEEK

As you continue this week, consider one of the four concepts Anya spoke on that could help paint the picture of what it could look like to be “in Christ.”

**Enter into Christ** - If you haven't yet made this commitment, I'd love to invite you to enter into Christ today! Trust Jesus the Messiah as the one who offers restoration and wholeness.

**Engage as Children** - Making a habit of spending time with him each day - to be still and present to our God, who is always present to us.

**Embrace the Family** - We need to lean into community - to know others and be known and walk this journey in Christ together. If you are not yet in a Life Group at Salem Alliance, you can go to our website or talk with one of our Groups pastors and get connected.

**Extend the Blessing** - If you're not already involved, I encourage you to jump in in some way. Check out the new initiative, “Love the City,” where you can apply for a grant from Salem Alliance to bless your neighbors.