

## ICEBREAKER

- What has been your experience of getting to know other people from different ethnic, cultural and language backgrounds?
- Is there anyone in your life right now from a different background that you are currently getting to know?

## IDEA 1 - JESUS' PRAYER FOR UNITY

Read John 17:20-23

- What stands out to you as you read these verses?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus prayed for you and had you in mind the night before he was crucified?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to focus on unity as His primary prayer for future believers right before His crucifixion?

*"As we align with Jesus and move towards deeper intimacy with him, we naturally move towards deeper unity with each other."*

- In what ways have you experienced this to be true?
- How have you experienced unity in Christ with those who are different from you?
- In what ways has this been a challenge?

## IDEA 2 - UNITY AS WITNESS TO THE WORLD

*"On the night before he died then, Jesus Christ delivered to us the most effective means for reaching the world with the gospel. He did not ask us to write books, bring evangelists to our cities, or put fish emblems on our cars. Nor did he instruct us to win the world through large churches built by and for a specific segment of society. For that matter, he did not pray that we would be "seeker-sensitive," "postmodern," "emergent," or "purpose-driven." Rather he called us to be one; then, he said, the world would know God's love and believe"*

- What is your reaction to this quote?
- How is our unity a witness to the world?
- Where do you see evidence of this taking place at Salem Alliance?

## EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER: INTIMACY LEADING TO UNITY

Sit in silence for 2 minutes, visualizing the pole-in-the-park metaphor from the sermon. As you imagine yourself moving closer to Christ (the pole), pay attention to what other people you are moving closer to as you are moving toward Him.

Take some time after to share who God brought to mind through this experience. Use this to help guide your response to the practice for this week.

## PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK: ANSWERING JESUS' PRAYER

As we live, serve, and worship with people from different ethnic, cultural, and language backgrounds, we can be the answer to Jesus' prayer!

**What's one next step that you could take to answering Jesus' prayer for unity?**

Here's some ideas to consider below:

### Grow in intimacy with Jesus

- This week, take some time to evaluate your intimacy with Jesus like you would with a spouse or best friend. How are you spending time with him, talking to him, listening to him, enjoying his presence?

**Build a friendship with someone in our church family who comes from a different background than you.**

- Consider attending/volunteering with a Baraka ministry e.g. Prayer Gathering, Workforce Community Dinners, Teaching English

**Pray for unity.**

- Set a reminder on your phone this week to pray for a oneness of mind, love, spirit & purpose among us. A unity so powerful that the world will know God's love and believe.