

# CORE TEAM SEASON PRACTICES & COMMITMENT

---

## *Explaining the first several months of 2021, and how to commit to help build Salt+Light*

There are many different ways to live out Salt+Light Community's values and priorities. In our current unique season, and as 2021 is our church's "first year of life," in the coming months we'll focus on doing a few things as well, and setting a solid foundation for years of ministry and mission together. We want to keep our weekly schedules open for "making disciples of Jesus by seeking his kingdom in everyday life."

So we will maximize the times we're together, and prioritize a few regular practices through which Salt+Light can "be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did" together. (Of course, with COVID, and as we learn together and follow God's lead, these plans may change!)

## IN-PERSON AND ZOOM SUNDAY GATHERINGS:

Of course we don't know what 2021 will hold, but we hope to start January with both a weekly, safe, in-person Sunday gathering option, as well a separate, weekly Sunday evening Zoom gathering option like we've experienced together this fall. Seekers, sinners, and skeptics are welcome into either option, and both will be relaxed and interactive. We will discuss and teach the scriptures we all read the previous week, and will worship God together through psalms, celebrations, communion and prayer.

In-person gatherings (time & location TBD) will also involve singing and potentially meals together, pending COVID precautions. Kids (birth - elementary) will join adults for at least some portions of gatherings, and can participate in age-specific discipleship for other portions. For those who gather via Zoom (for example, if you're uncomfortable in-person, show symptoms of illness, are traveling, or served during that day's in-person gathering), we will send a weekly kids' lesson and worship playlist for you to carry out at home.

## MISSIONAL D.N.A. GROUPS

Two of our priorities are "everyone discipled and everyone discipling," and "transformative cultural engagement." To those ends, everyone in our core team will commit to deep knownness and regular engagement with a few others. These relationships can take different forms (e.g. couples can meet together or single-gender groups can form, and there's no defined group size), and meetings can occur at various times and locations through each week.

However these relationships look, their goal is to "go deep, build up, and send out": D.N.A. stands for "Discovering truths about God and self together, Nurturing one another toward true heart transformation, and Acting out repentance and belief through obedience and proclamation." And as we pursue a life on mission together, these groups will also encourage, pray, and support each other in declaring the gospel with others, and in pursuing his kingdom in everyday life (for example, by serving asylum seekers through D.A.S.H, participating in orphan care, and/or loving neighbors well, etc.).

## DISCIPLING KIDS, STUDENTS, & PARENTS:

Jesus highly valued inviting kids to participate in God's kingdom. We will prioritize safe, engaging child- and teen-specific spaces that come alongside parents to nurture each child's relationship with Christ, by fostering peer relationships and discipleship, and equipping them to start discipling others.

- **Kids:** Kids of all ages are welcome in in-person gatherings, and age-specific discipleship is provided during the whole gathering (birth - preschool) or portions of it (elementary). Each week, kids explore God's word and presence through creative arts and activities, lively discussion, and fun Bible training. A simplified kids' lesson will also be sent out weekly, for families who gather via Zoom.
- **Students:** We are starting to prepare for Middle School and High School students to meet for age-specific discipleship, at least some weeks, perhaps after morning gatherings. We also foresee students



engaging in some form of mentored, age-specific D.N.A. Groups (see above), in which they can ask and answer real questions, serve others, and understand God, ourselves and our world together.

- **Parents:** Members of Salt+Light with giftings in this area will help parents with wisdom and resources on everyday discipleship at home and during your D.N.A. meetings. They suggest ideas, and provide resources and training to equip you for various elements of parenting and discipling kids and teens.

## EMPOWERING EVERYONE'S GIFTS & PASSIONS:

The gospel is good news, for everyday life and every cultural moment. And everyone is gifted as a vital and needed member of God's body. But no one can display and declare the gospel into every moment, issue, cause, or need. So following the Spirit, even during this core team season we will...

- ...declare the gospel into areas of cultural division, and display the gospel by each deeply engaging an area of biblical justice, pursuing the poor, helpless and marginalized.
- ...start to equip and empower every child, woman, and man to thrive in their gifting, creativity, and passion, for God's glory, the good of our church family, and the mission God sends us on. Regular opportunities will exist to engage ministry and mission with others in our church family, where you can be equipped -- both formally and informally -- to use your giftings for God's glory.

---

## CORE TEAM COMMITMENT

We will take church membership seriously and thus will pursue it slowly, once we all have a better picture of ministry and mission together. So we want to explain a provisional "Core Team Commitment," inviting you to go all-in as you can during this season, to help shape Salt+Light's first year of life, Jan - Dec 2021. Salt+Light Community's Core Team Commitment involves the following:

- By God's grace, I will seek to "be with Jesus," by living life centered on his word, His Spirit, and his kingdom. I will pursue spiritual abiding, practices, and growth; striving to repent and forgive as I grow in relationship with others; and to follow and obey God in relationship with him and his ways.
- By God's grace, I will seek to "become like Jesus," by giving up my life for God and others. I will pursue selfless conversations, sharing the gospel with believers and unbelievers; selfless generosity with my home, time, possessions, finances, and gifts; and selfless acts as I commit to a specific "cause" to seek God's justice, restoration, and kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
- By God's grace, I will seek to "do what Jesus did," by devoting myself to the things God values. I will pursue sincere priorities, sincere relationships, and sincere discipleship (including committing to regular Salt+Light gatherings and D.N.A. groups).
- By God's grace, I will uphold the primary Christian doctrine in the Apostles' Creed and Manila Manifesto; will strive for unity, relationship, and healthy conversation in secondary beliefs; and will support the perspective and responsibility of Salt+Light's elders and leaders.

I make these commitments, and commit to make Salt+Light Community my church family through December 2021, outside of unforeseen circumstances and through whatever highs and lows may come in this first year of a new church's life. I am aware I am broken, sinful, and dependent on God's grace and the power of the Spirit to fulfill these commitments, and that at times I will fail. But I commit to pursue these things in the hope that together with my brothers and sisters in Salt+Light Community, we will "make disciples of Jesus by seeking his Kingdom in everyday life."