

IDEA 1

Efrain kicked off the sermon series by looking at 1 Thessalonians chapter 1.

Through this text, he drew our attention to the witness of the Thessalonian church - their faithful work, loving deeds and enduring hope—all empowered by the Holy Spirit.

How is God using you as a witness? In what ways has this been a struggle for you?

Where do you see evidence of faithful work, loving deeds and enduring hope in your life?

Where do you see evidence of this in our church community?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Paul's response to these things was prayerful thanksgiving. Take some time together to praise God for the way He is using you and this community as witnesses for Him.

IDEA 2

Efrain shared the idea that waiting is how we faithfully remember our future.

What do you think he means by that?

How do you think reflecting on God's presence in our past can impact our future?

In what ways have you experienced this to be true?

He described waiting as a communal act.

What does it look like for us to wait well together? Or to put it another way - what does it look like to faithfully remember our future together?

IDEA 2

Efrain asked the question - **are you waiting with passive detachment, frantic fear or worshipful reflection?**

Which of these describe your experience of waiting? Why do you think this is your response to waiting?

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Efrain invited us to discern God in our story.

- **What does it look like for you this week to take some time to do this?** (How, when, where?)
- **What does it look like for you to invite others in to discerning God in your story?**
(Maybe this involves sharing your story with a trusted friend and inviting their discernment. Maybe this means scheduling a healing prayer appointment - healingprayer@salemalliance.org. Maybe something else...)

Process this practice as a Life Group and then plan on sharing your experience with each other next week.