

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Apr. 26th, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Text

Jeremiah 29:1-7

5 This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 2 (This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) 3 He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said: 4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Overview of Sermon

This week we launched our new sermon series, Here for Good, where we take a deep dive into the church vision and community commitments. The church vision is to be a flourishing community in central Surrey that is centered on Jesus, transformed by His grace, and committed to loving and serving others. This vision statement was crafted by the Vision Community that took a look at where our church community came from, the needs of our community, and ultimately what God was speaking to them through the 18 month process. In 1960, a group from Tenth Alliance in Vancouver that was commuting from Surrey began gathering in the home of Arnold Neufeld about starting a new Alliance church in Surrey. A year later, they began holding prayer meeting in the bar of the Dell hotel and by 1962, the church was officially launched a building had been completed. Over the years, the church grew in attendance and helped plant multiple other churches in the Lower Mainland. Throughout the church's history, they continue to step out into the community to love and serve their neighbours. In 2009, the church was facing problems like declining attendance, an aging facility, and debt that led them to wrestle with the question, "Is it time to leave?". Through this season of transition, the church decided that there was desire to stay in the rapidly developing urban centre not because of sentiment, but because of a deep conviction from God.

To understand what God is inviting us into, we need to turn to Jeremiah 29. The nation of Israel had been conquered by Babylon and a large group of Israelites had been sent there in exile. The people were foreigners and exiles in a distant land far from home, but the prophet Jeremiah encouraged them to settle down in Babylon, to build houses and gardens, and ultimately seek the peace and prosperity of the city they were in. They were called to live here in exile as they would back there in their home. Our vision statement is a reflection of this heartbeat found in the prophet Jeremiah's letter to the exiles. SAC is called to be a flourishing community that experiences the abundant life of Jesus that naturally overflows in our love and service to others.

It can be very tempting to envision a life elsewhere in a different place with different circumstances that could be "better" for us. In doing so, we miss the spiritual reality that God has called each of us to play a part in His church and in His kingdom to advance the gospel. God does not simply desire to transform the small community of people within a local church. His vision is much bigger than that! His desire is to use the people within the church to transform the community around the church. SAC has been place in central Surrey for a purpose, for the good of our community and God's Kingdom.

Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- What prompted your first visit to Surrey Alliance Church, or what keeps you coming back?

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- What do the Scripture passages teach us about God? What do they teach us about humanity?
- In Jeremiah 29:1-7, what parallels do you see between the Israelites in Babylon and Christians living in central Surrey?

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- How does the concept of being 'Here for Good' challenge you to view your current neighborhood, workplace, or community as a divine assignment rather than a temporary situation?
- How can the four community commitments of prayer, practice, presence, and partnership practically shape your weekly rhythms and priorities?
- What specific needs or opportunities for flourishing do you observe in central Surrey or your immediate community, and how might God be inviting you to respond?

Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice:

1. Pray for the community (leaders, wisdom, peace, opportunities)
2. Love the community (How do we speak of it? View it? Treat it?)
3. Serve the community (schools, sports, church, NightShift, Income Tax, EWR Shelter, hospital visitations, etc.)

Prayer: God, we pause and acknowledge that we are here because this is where You have carried us to. We ask that you would expand our vision to see what You see. Help us to see how You have called us to partner with You in the expansion of Your Kingdom and for the flourishing of the city. By Your grace lead us as we love and serve others in Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer Together.

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.