



### **OUR PURPOSE (WHY WE EXIST)**

Our reason for existence is "to make Christ known and to disciple the knowing."

### **OUR PASSIONS (WHO WE LOVE)**

*GOD, THE CHURCH, THE UN-CHURCHED*

We love God because He is uniquely beautiful, infinitely worthy, and supremely valuable. We love the church because it is more than a building; it is the "body of Christ" and the "brotherhood of the saints," a collection of redeemed men and women who find common ground in their love of Jesus. We love the un-churched because God loves the un-churched, and He wants to use us to make His love known.

### **OUR PRACTICES (WHAT WE DO)**

*WORSHIP, MINISTRY, MISSIONS*

Because we love God, we worship Him (Father, Son, and Spirit) through relevant music and engaging preaching; knowing that He alone deserves our worship. Because we love our brothers and sisters in Christ, we do ministry (acts of service by the church for the church), knowing that the world will see our love for each other as proof of our love for God. We engage in missional acts of service because we know that eternity is real and really long.

Our hope is to bring the life-changing gospel of Jesus to those who don't know God, so they can experience forgiveness, and spend eternity in grateful worship of God, instead of experiencing God's wrath in the eternal torment of Hell.

### **The Nehemiah Challenge**

**Backstory: What Got Us Here?**

Nehemiah 1:1-3

#### **GOALS:**

1. To grow in relationship with God.
2. To grow in relationship with others.
3. To grow our groups and start new groups.

**FACILITATOR:** The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on last week's message. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, a facilitator's goal is to promote increased biblical awareness, as well as individual self-awareness— a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and transformation.

**REVIEW:** What is the current series? Why are we doing this? What is this week's title? Why is this subject important to study?

**(Each question needs to be read in its entirety first, and then broken down question by question)**

- What is a prequel? What is your favorite Hollywood prequel?

#### **BIBLE STUDY AND APPLICATION:**

##### **Read Nehemiah 1:1-3**

- Given what you know about Nehemiah, how important is his backstory?
- What did Pastor James say are the two greatest challenges to the study of Scripture?
- How many of you have experienced those challenges? Give examples.
- What is your backstory? And, what do you hope to gain from your Life Group this semester?

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**January 23rd** – Membership Class 10am

**February 14th** – Baptism Service 10am