



### **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**

### *Defining Moments*

Nehemiah 1:1-2

#### **GOALS:**

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

#### **INTRODUCTION (PLEASE READ ALOUD BEFORE EVERY GROUP):**

Every famous person has them: Christopher Columbus, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Edison. Every not-so-famous person has them too: you, me, Pastor James. They are the moments that change everything that comes after them. We call them defining moments because that is what they do; they define what life will be going forward. This is the lesson that we are learning from Nehemiah this week. Our goal should be to **learn from him** how to recognize those moments and how to make the most of them.

**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 "defining moment?"

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

##### **Read Nehemiah 1:1-2**

- What would be the defining moment for the following Bible characters: Adam, Moses, Noah? What other Bible characters had defining moments? And, what was that moment?
- Do all defining moments have to be good experiences? Explain.
- Having declared that this was a defining moment for Nehemiah (verses 1-2), what else do we learn about defining moments?
- What did you learn from (and from whom) the testimonials on Sunday?
- How should a Covenant relationship be a "defining moment" for us?

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** – Baptism Orientation 11:30am

**February 13<sup>th</sup>** – Feed the Hungry 1-4pm

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Baptism Service 10am