



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

Praying With Substance

Nehemiah 1:4-11

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): Presumptuous - full of, characterized by, or showing presumption or readiness to presume in conduct or thought, as by saying or doing something without right or permission. What word more accurately describes many of the acts and actions of people who claim to know God? How many of our practices are based on following the example of others, without regard to whether they knew what they were doing? What better exemplifies that than the practice of prayer? This study is a focus on the prayer of Nehemiah in chapter 1, in the hope that we would learn how to pray with substance.

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)

- When and under what circumstances did you learn about prayer?
- Were you taught how to pray, or was it just assumed that you would catch on?
- Pastor James told about people who made a lasting impression on him because of how they prayed. Who have those people been in your life?

BIBLE STUDY AND APPLICATION:

Read Nehemiah 1:4-11

- In respect to point 2 on outline, how does Nehemiah break with protocol, as it pertains to praying? What influence did Jesus' coming have on the practice of praying?
- Using Nehemiah's prayer as our basis, should we plan first, pray second? Or vice-versa? Why?
- In the absence of God's promises (point 5 on outline), how does a person know what the parameters of prayer can be?
- From the six points in the sermon, what from Nehemiah's prayer most helps you in your own praying and why? What area of your prayer life needs the most improvement?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

February 13th – Feed the Hungry 1-4pm

February 14th – Baptism Service 10am

February 22nd – Monday Night Supper Club 6-8pm