



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.

Nehemiah's Challenge When Praying Works Best Nehemiah 2:1-10

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): How often is prayer treated like the weather when "everyone is talking about it but no one does anything about it?" It would appear that far too much is assumed and far too little taught about Biblical praying. Consequently, children, that are taught to recite in the name of praying, become adults that aren't sure about how, and certainly aren't comfortable when expected to do it. The resulting theology of prayer is based on conclusions of observation and speculation, rather than on the clear principles found in Scripture. Wouldn't you like to know that there is a right and effective way to approach the Creator of all of the universe in an intimate conversation that yields a desired outcome? The purpose of this week's study is to help us learn when praying works best.

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)

How can we distinguish answered prayer from happenstance? How do we know that it wouldn't have happened anyway? For example, a person praying to Buddha, getting what they want vs a person praying to Jesus; or a prostitute praying for something and getting it vs a godly person praying for it and not getting it.

Read Nehemiah 2:1-10

Prayer works best...

1. **When it is an acknowledgment of our powerlessness (1:4-11)**
Why would we consider Nehemiah powerless? Why is admitting powerlessness important in prayer?
2. **When it is coupled with transparency (2:1-3)**
What does it mean to be transparent? How was Nehemiah's transparency evidenced? What are some examples of not being transparent in daily living? Why is transparency important in praying?
3. **When it inspires courage (2:4-5)**
What is courage? How did Nehemiah exhibit courage? What did he do first? Why would we consider that courageous? How is our lack of courage evident in our praying?
4. **When it includes specifics (2:6-8)**
What does someone mean when they say, "Just cut to the chase?" How much detail did Nehemiah offer the King in response to the question in verse 4? What did Nehemiah receive? What does that teach us about specific praying? Why don't we do more of it?
5. **When it marries faith with actions (2:9-10)**
What is the difference between potential and kinetic energy? Which represents faith and which represents action? When did Nehemiah's faith move from hope to fulfillment? How do we translate that principle into a more effective prayer life?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

March 12th – No One Goes Hungry Dinner 1-4pm

March 19th – Family Fun Night 5-7pm