



### 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

### *Informed Faith*

Nehemiah 2:11-16

**INTRODUCTION (PLEASE READ ALOUD BEFORE EVERY GROUP):** Faith. Isn't that supposed to be what it's about? What we're about? Yet, when it comes down to it, how much do we actually know about faith? It's not a question about how much we've been taught or told or assumed, but how much we know. That is one of the reasons that we study the Bible. While there are a few places that say, "Faith is...", there is more learned about faith as we study the lives of those who "got it". In our current series, Nehemiah is the guy. As we moved from chapter 1 into chapter 2, we began seeing how faith evidenced itself in him, while he was still a servant to a pagan king in a foreign country. Beginning in verse 11 of chapter 2, we are witnesses to some important principles that he incorporated into his faith journey. The purpose for this study is to learn how to incorporate these same principles into ours!"

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

- **Leaders should draft a person in the group to give a summary of the events in Nehemiah chapters 1 & 2 up until verse 2:11.**

\* Prior to Nehemiah's arrival in Jerusalem, what was his faith based on? Based on what's happened to Nehemiah thus far, how was his faith challenged in three distinct ways/instances?

### Read Nehemiah 2:11-16

1. An informed faith **incorporates pauses** (11). How did Nehemiah incorporate a pause into his faith? How can we do that?
2. An informed faith **guards its influences** (12). How did he guard the influences of his faith? How can we do that?
3. An informed faith **draws its own conclusions** (13-15). How did his faith draw its own conclusions? How can we do that?
4. An informed faith **informs in time** (16). How did his faith inform in time? How can we do that?
5. What are some adjustments that we can make in our thinking and processing, so that **OUR** steps of faith are **INFORMED**?

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** – Monday Night Supper Club 6-8pm

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – No One Goes Hungry Dinner 1-4pm