

God's Calling & Vision Series...

Oct 24: If God is calling us to do something important in SJ, how do we begin?

Oct 31: Why should I care about what God is calling me to do?

Nov 7: How do we keep on “being” and “doing” church when things are not going great?

Nov 14: How can we keep on being passionate and compassionate?

Nov 21: Remaining thankful when we don't feel it

**How do we keep on
“being” and “doing” church
when things are not going
great?**



Masbate.org



GOD'S VISION
OUR FUTURE

St. James
Presbyterian Church

Vision of the future for SJPC

**A revitalized
St. James Presbyterian Church whose
leadership and congregation are
Gospel-grounded,
missionally active,
and growing.**

Gospel-grounded: we are a church, a group of people saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ who died and resurrected for the forgiveness of our sins. We exist to affirm and live out God's Word, grace, and mercy in us.

Missionally active: we are called to spread the Gospel in words and deeds, with Christlike love, and make disciples as we go in our daily life.

Growing: as we continue to be faithful and obedient to Jesus, we will grow spiritually and be blessed by God in numbers.

NEHEMIAH

REBUILDING THE WALL





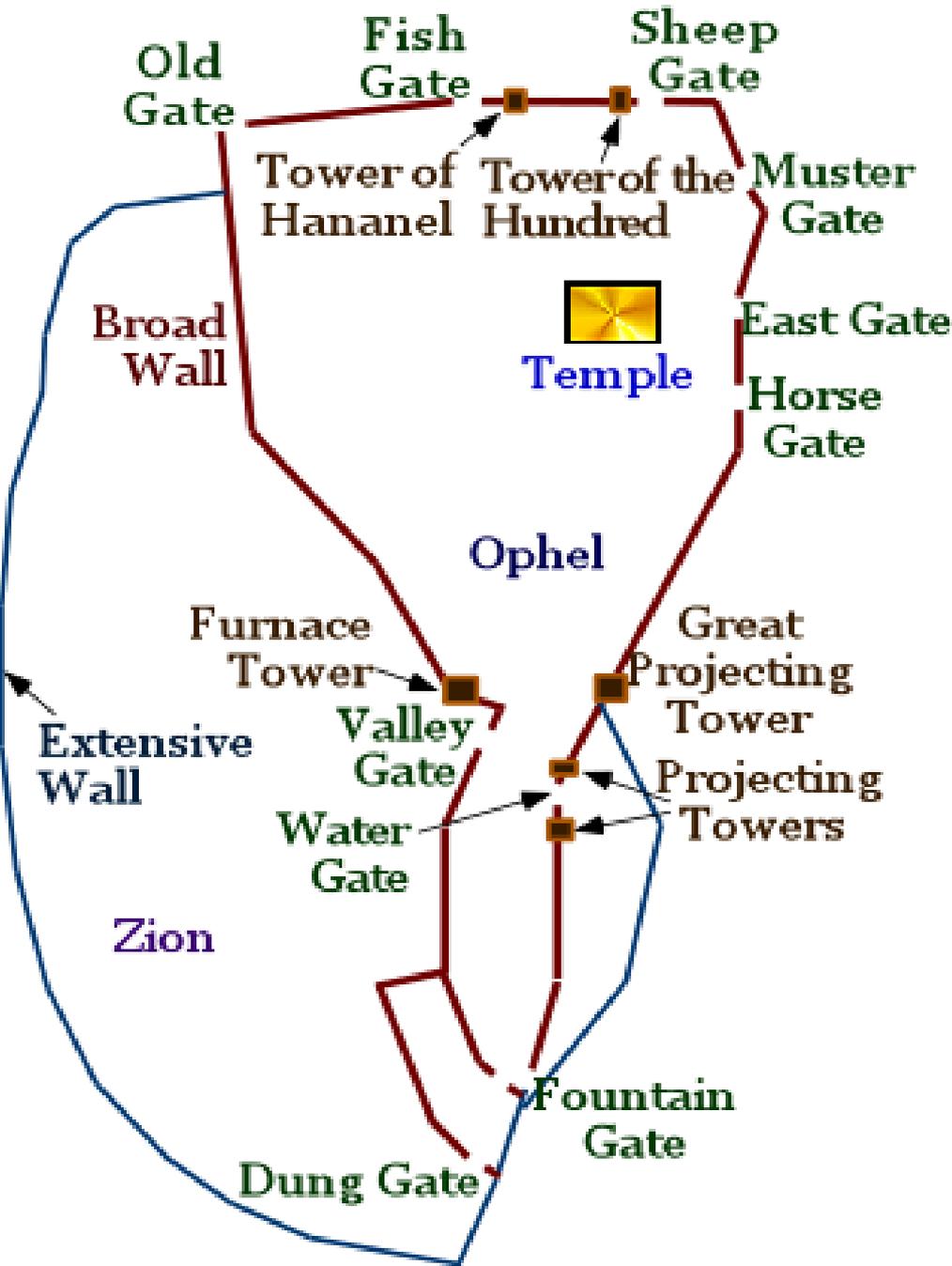




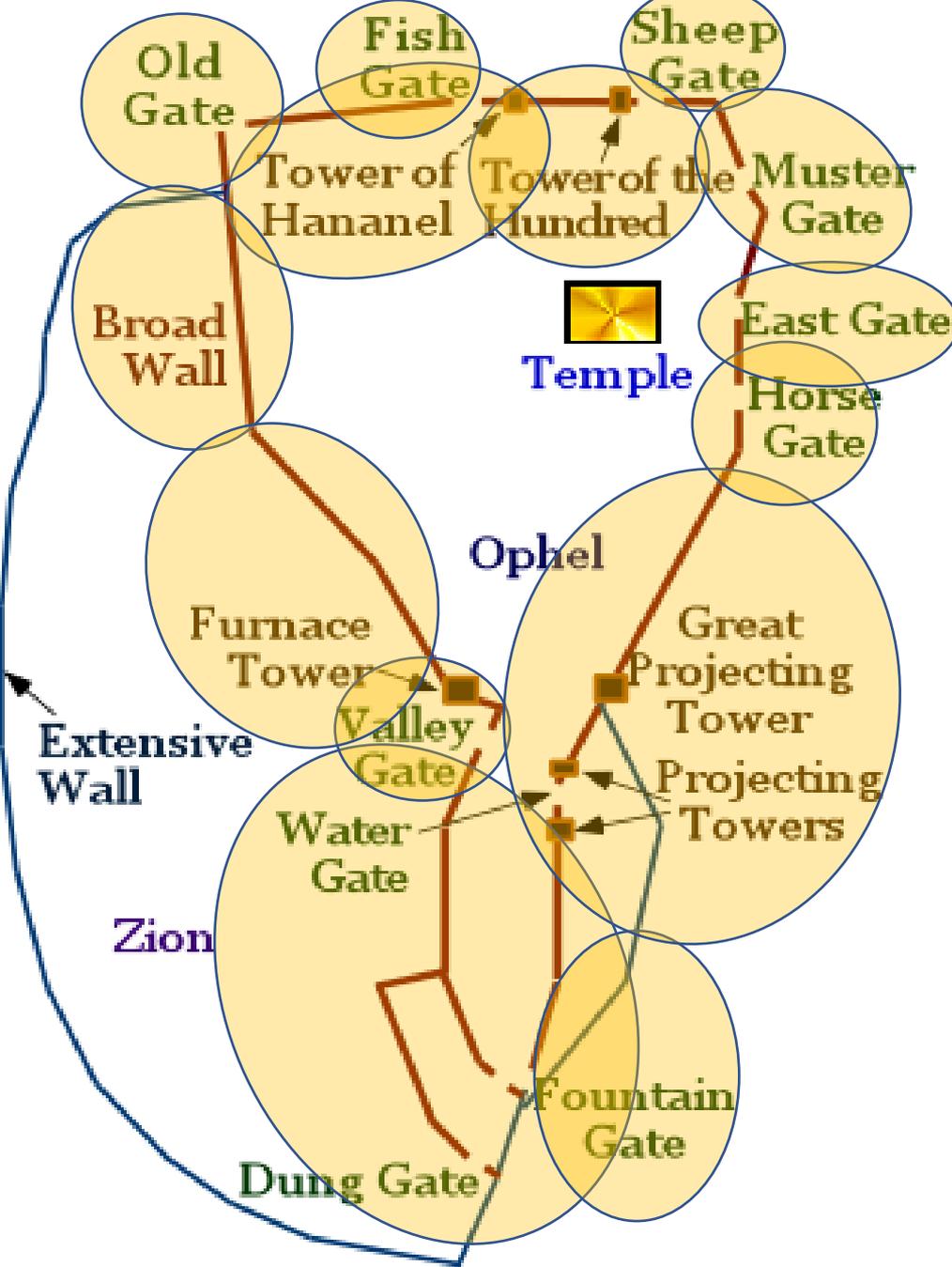


Nehemiah 3...

HOW THEY REBUILT THE WALLS



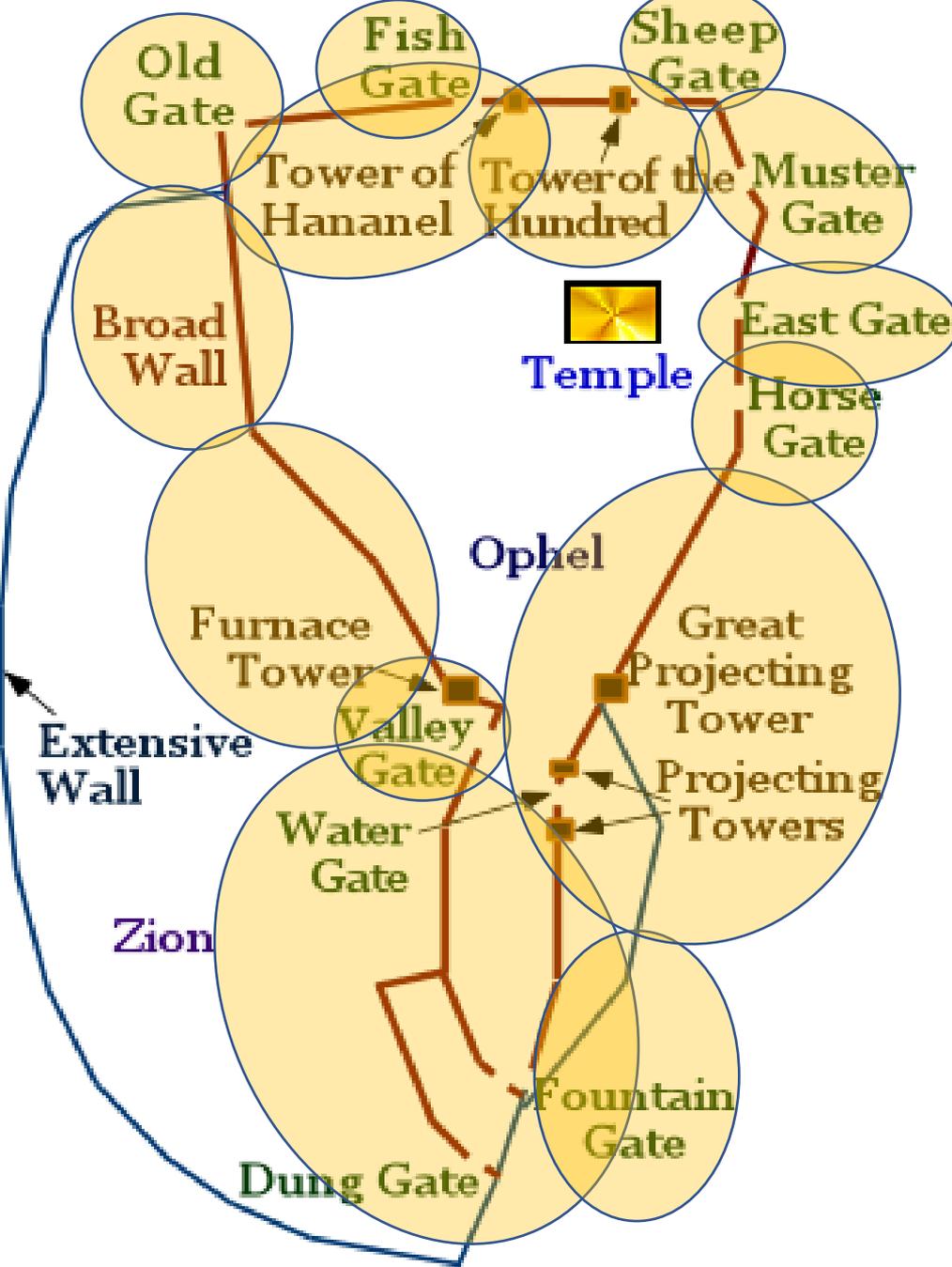
NEHEMIAH'S JERUSALEM



NEHEMIAH'S JERUSALEM

Nehemiah 3...

- 1 – Sheep Gate, Tower of the 100, Tower of Hananel
- 3 – Fish Gate, next section
- 4 – Next to him...
- 5 – the next section...
- 6 – Old Gate (Jeshanah)
- 7 – next to them...
- 8 – the next section...
- 9 – the next section...
- 10 – opposite his house...
- 11 – another section...
- 12 – the next section...
- 13 – Valley Gate
- 14 – Dung Gate
- 15 – Shallun...
- 16 – son of Azbuk
- 18-21 – next to him...



NEHEMIAH'S JERUSALEM

THEY REBUILT BY...

- whoever lived near or next to the wall sections
- not leaving a gap in adjoining parts
- families worked together
- ALL residents in Jerusalem regardless of their position

Nehemiah 4:1-21, NIV

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”



Nehemiah 4:1-21, NIV

Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.



Nehemiah 4:1-21, NIV

But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.



Nehemiah 4:1-21, NIV

But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.” Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”



Nehemiah 4:1-21, NIV

Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.” When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.



Nehemiah 4:1-21, NIV

From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.



Nehemiah 4:1-21, NIV

Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!” So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

“Being” and “doing” when things were going bad...

Insulted, ridiculed



Prayed to God to deal with enemies

Enemies angered, plotted trouble



Prayed to God and posted guards

Internal complaints:
too much work, tired



Reminded about God, did ways to protect themselves

Imminent attacks
by enemies



God will fight for us; led by example

For us today, “being” and “doing” church...

We’ve got a real spiritual enemy!



Pray to God versus spiritual enemies

Plus naysayers, who don’t get it



Pray, be wise, and deal with them

US: doubts, tired, vision, unchallenged, personal conflicts



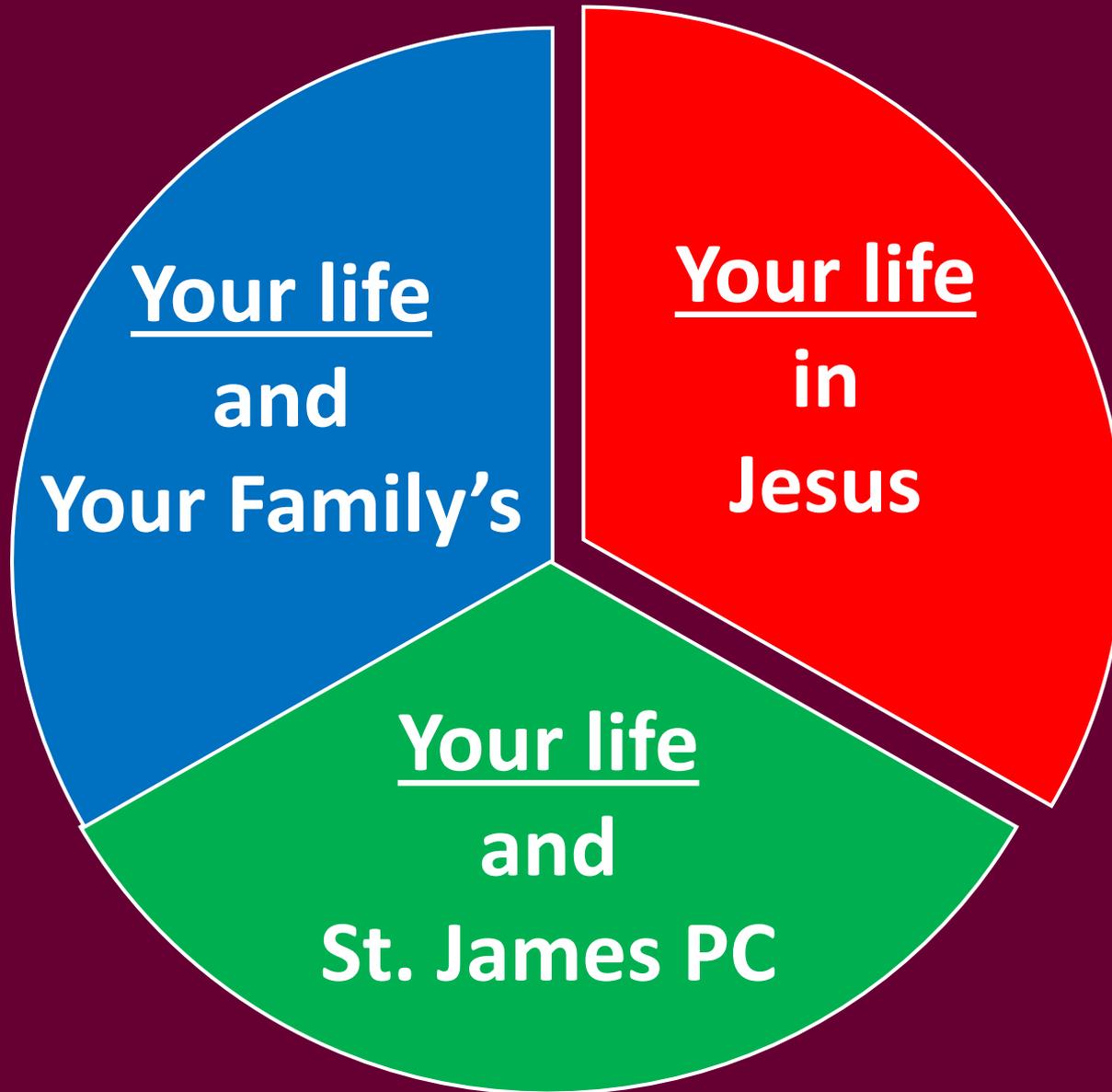
Put God first, follow Christ’s leading, be faithful together

STILL US: easiest way out – QUIT!



Jesus said He will be with us ALWAYS!

For us today, what are we rebuilding?



Your life
and
Your Family's

Your life
in
Jesus

Your life
and
St. James PC

Today at St. James you can...

Pray, pray, pray

Invite, invite, invite

Involve in community outreach activities
(Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, etc.)

Use and develop your gifts and talents

Invite, organize, and challenge ALL OF US!

When we see St. James becoming the church God calls us to be and to do ...

- **Always remember this: you and your family matter to God. God loves you!**
- **Little by little, we will see God's miracles in our lives.**
- **God's purpose is to show His grace, mercy, and power through you and the church.**
- **This is why we keep on "being" and "doing" as a church of our Lord Jesus.**