



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.

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 “doing” church when things are not going great?

Nov 14: How can we keep on being passionate?

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

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**Why should I care
about what God is calling
me and St. James to do?**



Masbate.org

Nehemiah 2:1-6, NLT

I had never before appeared sad in his presence. So the king asked me, “Why are you looking so sad? You don’t look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled.”

Then I was terrified, but I replied, “Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.”

The king asked, “Well, how can I help you?”



Nehemiah 2:1-6, NLT

With a prayer to the God of heaven, I replied, “If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.”

The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, “How long will you be gone? When will you return?” After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.



Nehemiah 2:11-20, NLT

So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding.

After dark I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal's Well, and over to the Dung Gate to inspect the broken walls and burned gates. Then I went to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but my donkey couldn't get through the rubble.



Nehemiah 2:11-20, NLT

So, though it was still dark, I went up the Kidron Valley instead, inspecting the wall before I turned back and entered again at the Valley Gate. The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. But now I said to them, “You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!”

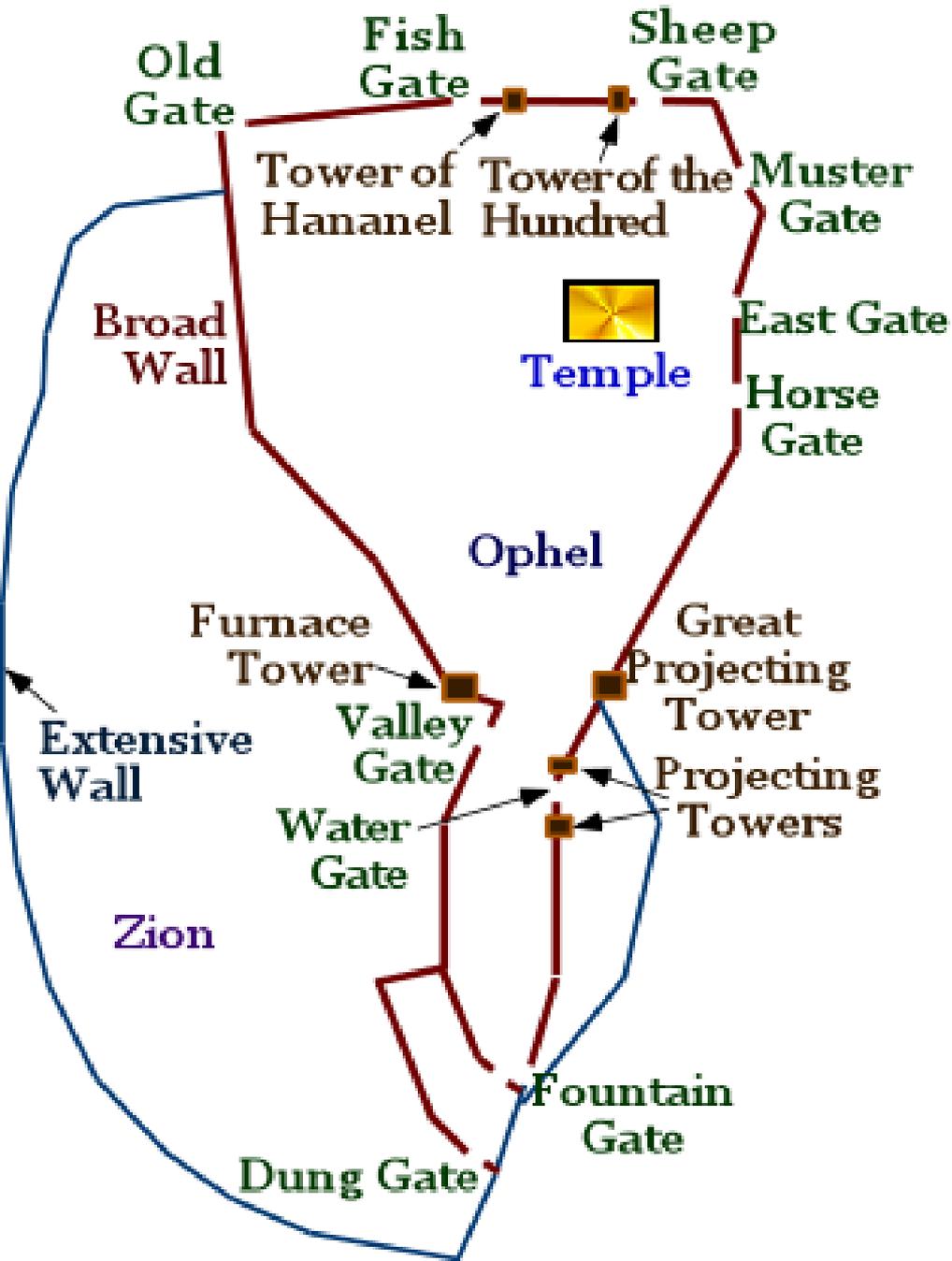












NEHEMIAH'S JERUSALEM

Dimensions of the walls of Jerusalem:
 Length = 2.5 miles
 Ave. height = 40 ft
 Ave. thickness = 8 ft
 34 watchtowers, 7 main gates, 2 minor gates
 Built to protect the city of Jerusalem against invaders.

1981: added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site List

Nehemiah 2:11-20, NLT

Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, “Yes, let’s rebuild the wall!” So they began the good work.

But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. “What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” they asked. I replied, “The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem.”

How did Nehemiah begin?

Cared, cried, confessed, asked God's help

Used his God-given gifts, connections

He inspected the ruins, then planned

To the people, he explained their trouble/
disgrace, rallied and assured them of God's
call and help

Remember the people in Jerusalem were in disgrace...

Nehemiah 6:15-16

So on October 2 (445 B.C.), the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun.

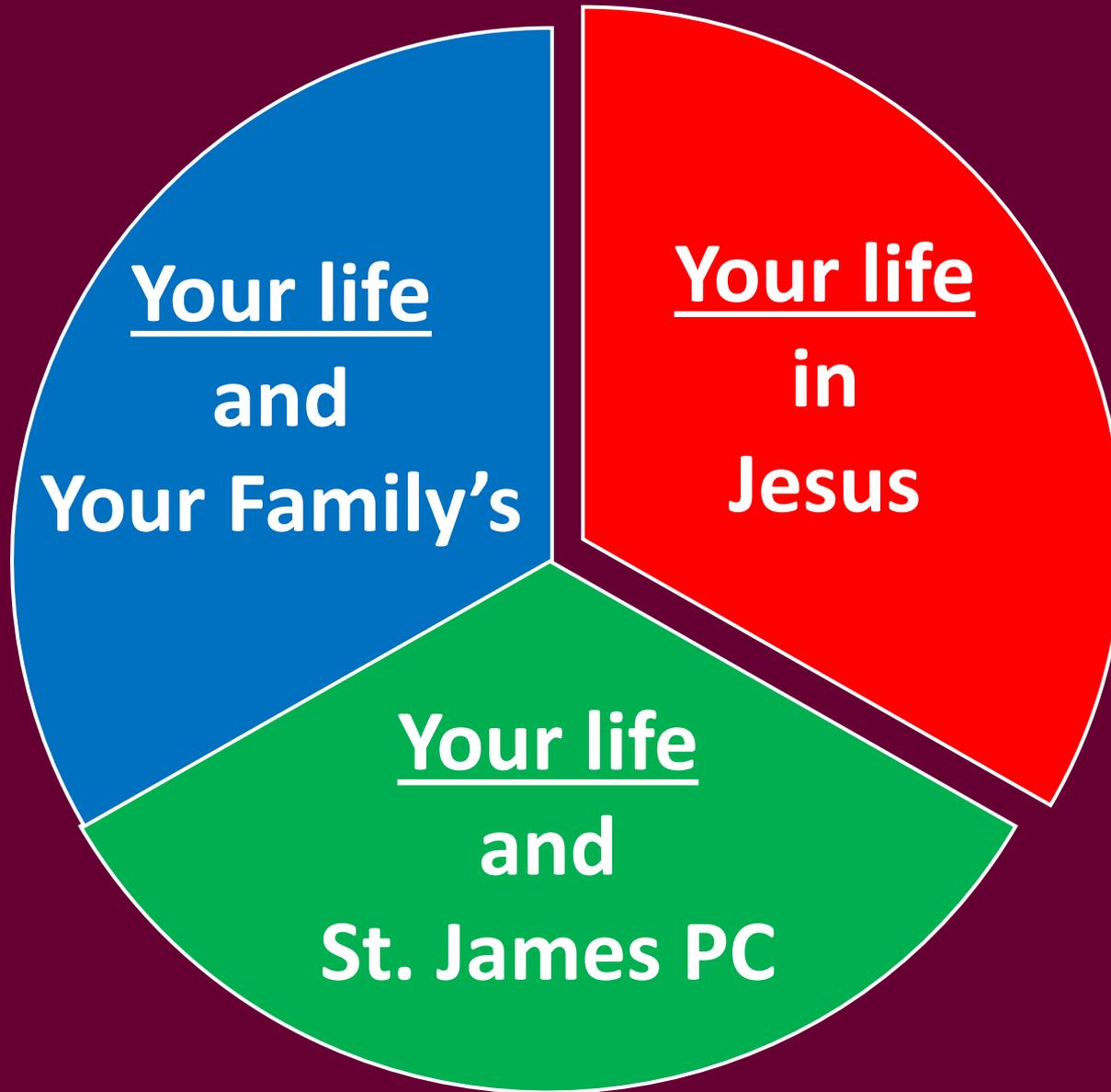
When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

NEHEMIAH

REBUILDING THE WALL



For us today, what are we rebuilding?



Your life
and
Your Family's

Your life
in
Jesus

Your life
and
St. James PC

To rebuild your life and St. James, how must you begin?

Confess, ask forgiveness, ask God's help

Know your spiritual health, work on it

Know your God-given gifts, develop, use

Start caring for what God is calling you to

Today, St. James needs people to...

Pray, pray, pray

Invite, invite, invite!

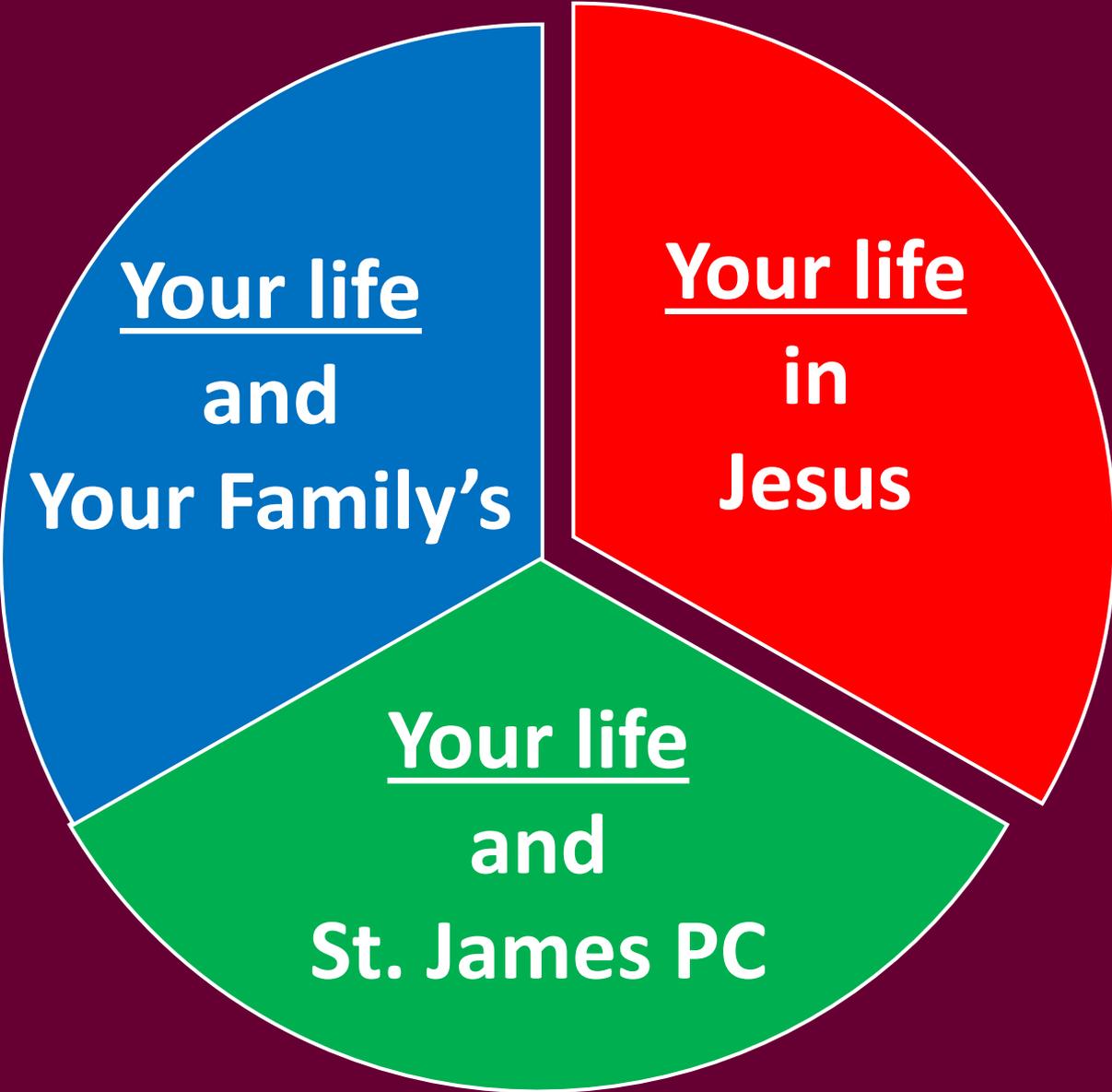
Start planning community outreach activities (*Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year*)

Invite, organize, and motivate the men!

Play piano, guitar, etc.

Tech for our live/recorded worship video

It's about your life. That's why you should care.



Your life
and
Your Family's

Your life
in
Jesus

Your life
and
St. James PC

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 all should care.**

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