



# ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA  
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## SERMON STUDY & DISCUSSION OUTLINE

### God's Calling & Vision Series (Nehemiah):

- #1 – If God is calling us to do something important in SJ, how do we begin?
- #2 – Why should I care about what God is calling us to do?
- #3 – How do we keep on “being” and “doing” church when things are not going great?
- #4 – How can we keep on being passionate and compassionate?
- #5 – Remaining faithful when we don't feel it

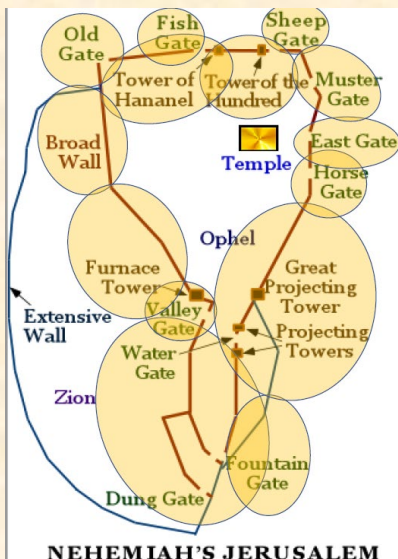
## 11.07.2021 – How do we keep on “being” and “doing” church when things are not going great?

### 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 (Ephesians 2:8-10) who died and resurrected for the forgiveness of our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-19; Ephesians 1:6-7). We exist to affirm and live out God's Word, grace, and mercy in us (Colossians 1:9-14).
- **Missionally active** – we are called by God to spread the Gospel through words and deeds, with Christlike love, and to make disciples as we go in our daily life. (Philippians 1:3-6, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)
- **Growing** – as we continue to be faithful and obedient to what God is calling us to be and to do, we will grow strong spiritually and will be blessed by God in numbers. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-25, Acts 2:38-41, 2 Peter 1:3-11)

Based on Nehemiah 3 and using the diagram below, what principles or methods can we learn?



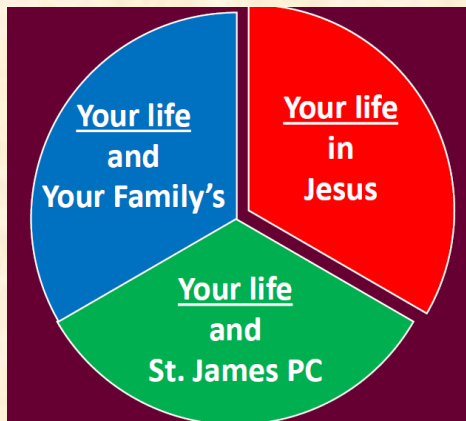
### THEY REBUILT BY...

- 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

From Nehemiah 4:1-21, Nehemiah and his people encountered a few but critical challenges and risks. Can you name some of those and discuss how they responded and dealt with each.

Today, are the challenges and issues we face as individual Christians and as a church comparable to what Nehemiah faced? Name a few of these. Then answer how can we keep on “being” and “doing” as a church with those situations upon us?

It is good to be reminded and to constantly ask ourselves: What are we rebuilding today? Is it our church, our families, and our personal lives? All of these?



How are you rebuilding your life? How about your family?

How are you engaging in rebuilding your church?

#### ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Nehemiah did a few simple yet strategic ways to motivate people to work hard and quick despite the enormity of the rebuilding project. Can you explain a few of these and also discuss how these could be adopted today.
2. Did all the residents of Jerusalem do their share of the workload? Discuss what Nehemiah did to make this happen.
3. Lead by example. How did Nehemiah demonstrate this leadership principle?
4. In the face of major challenges including threats to life, name a few important things one can do.
5. If there is no “Nehemiah” around, how do you think a project can still be done successfully?