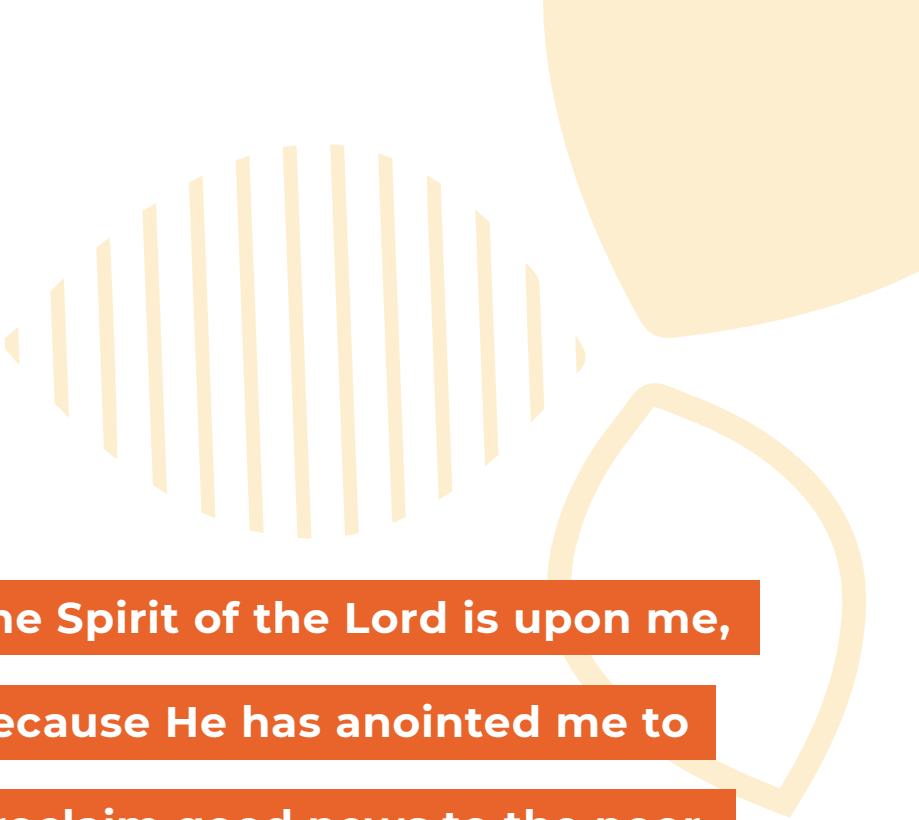




community
CHURCH

ADVANCE

Group Questions



**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because He has anointed me to
proclaim good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to proclaim liberty
to the captives and recovering of
sight to the blind, to set at liberty
those who are oppressed.**

Luke 4:18

week 1 | october 27

message notes

Broken for the Community

Scripture: Nehemiah 1

Be sure to watch the community group video that accompanies this message at mpcc.org/advancegroups.

community group questions

1. This past Sunday, Pastor Alan introduced what the next two years will look like at Community Church. What were your thoughts of the Advance Initiative? What parts were you excited about?
1. “I’m not okay with what’s not okay”. This phrase was used in the message. What was Nehemiah NOT okay with in the first chapter and why? Mention anything you have personally encountered or experienced, where you felt a ‘holy discontent’. What did it do to you?
2. ‘But Dad, you said...’ is how Nehemiah prayed to God in chapter 1. What does that mean and how did that take shape in his prayer?
3. Are there promises that God has given you that you need to speak to your heavenly Father? What impact can it have to have this conversation with God?
4. We laid out a future vision for our church in three pieces. Can you ‘flesh these out’ in more detail and discuss the impact they could have?
 1. Launch of ministry into Alma
 2. Expansion of Ministry in Mt. Pleasant
 3. The 4:18 Initiative
5. Please pray for the Advance Initiative. Please also commit to making a commitment in terms of how God may be calling you to engage in what He is doing in our church at this time. We are praying that 100% of God’s people will encounter Jesus Christ in the area of generosity this season.

week 2 | november 3

message notes

It's the King's Money

Scripture: Nehemiah 2

Be sure to watch the community group video that accompanies this message at mpcc.org/advancegroups.

community group questions

1. Read Matthew 6:21. What does this mean? Also read Luke 16:13 and explain. 'Stuff' is consistently competing for your heart. Do you feel that you have a problem in this area? Share the wins or losses you have experienced in that competition, both in the past and now.
2. The main principal in the sermon was 'It's the King's money'. Read 1 Chronicles 29:10–14. Despite potential personal hesitance, declare the things you possess as belongings of God. Please do this out loud and in some detail!
3. Are you beginning to grasp the next steps and vision for future growth in our church? The three big pieces are the Alma launch, Mount Pleasant expansion of ministry, and increased generosity. Break each one down and verbalize what that entails.
4. Can you remember the five steps on the Generosity Ladder? Recount each of them and share where you think you are and how God is moving you toward the next step of a generous heart. What step can you take this week to move in the direction God may be calling you?
5. This was week two of a 5-week series that is moving the church toward bold new expressions of ministry and impact. Please pray for this process, for the leadership for the church, and for every person who is being spoken to by God to engage with His plans.

week 3 | november 10

message notes

Facing Opposition

Scripture: Nehemiah 4

Be sure to watch the community group video that accompanies this message at mpcc.org/advancegroups.

community group questions

1. Have you ever recognized Spiritual Warfare in your life? What did it look like? Where did it originate? How did you react?
2. How did Jesus respond when He received verbal attacks? How should you respond?
3. 2 Timothy 1:7 says *“God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”* When fear raises its head in your life, how do you counter it? What else does the Bible say regarding how we are to counter fear?
4. What is your greatest weapon against spiritual attack? Read Ephesians 6:10-18 about the Armor of God. What do each of the items of armor represent to you?
5. As we move through our Advance initiative, what opposition may we face corporately as a church? Is there opposition that families and individuals may face as they work to live more generously? How can we learn from Nehemiah and continue to move forward?
6. Are you ready to make the kind of commitment before the Lord that you know will be difficult to accomplish without His help? What do you feel God is saying to you? What are you going to do about it?

week 4 | november 17

message notes

We're All Called to Do Something

Scripture: Nehemiah 5

Be sure to watch the community group video that accompanies this message at mpcc.org/advancegroups.

community group questions

1. Can you recall and define the multi-faceted problem that faced Nehemiah in chapter 5?
2. Verses 6 and 7 reveal Nehemiah's reaction to this problem. What do you think it means to "take counsel with myself"? This prompted a very direct response from Nehemiah – describe the action he took.
3. Our local church is attempting to take action as we step into the immediate future. Can you try and elaborate on this season we have called, "ADVANCE". Flesh out the three items:
 1. ADVANCE the Gospel in Alma.
 2. ADVANCE the expansion of ministry in Mt. Pleasant.
 3. ADVANCE the 4:18 Initiative.
4. Are you able to describe the Giving Ladder that we looked at? Where and how would you like to grow in your own generosity at this time? What would a 'next step' look like for you? Be open with each other.
5. We will ask the church to engage with the commitment cards this upcoming Sunday. Please be in prayer for the church as a whole and also be praying as to how God is speaking to you.

week 5 | november 24

message notes

The Mission is Worth Pursuing

Scripture: Nehemiah 6 & 8

Be sure to watch the community group video that accompanies this message at mpcc.org/advancegroups.

community group questions

1. This is the second time, in Nehemiah 6 and 8, that major obstacles have stood opposed to Nehemiah and God's work. They were toxic. What were they? What lies have been spoken over your life?
2. The lies were specifically intended to lure people away from God's work. Can you articulate the kinds of lies that our church family may face in the light of the ADVANCE initiative? Have you faced any lies in this context?
3. The sermon posed the question – "is it worth it?" As we serve God and propel the Gospel forward, what is your answer to that question personally and corporately for us right now? Is it really worth all this effort and investment? What's the gain?
4. This concludes a unique and formative series for us as a church. Next week we will give another opportunity for people to provide commitment cards if they missed this week. On December 8, we will have our very first opportunity toward giving to the One Fund – please cover the entire scope of this initiative in prayer as this is a pivotal time for our church.
5. Close by reading Nehemiah 6:16 – 17.



commitment weekend

On Sunday, November 24, at the service you attend, we'll ask you to cheerfully commit to the amount God has laid on your heart. We look forward with great anticipation to what God will do in us and through us as we seek to make an even greater impact on our communities, our nation, and our world.

**Each one must give as he
has decided in his heart,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.**

2 Corinthians 9:7

Together on Purpose

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