



ENGAGE GROUP

# Studies

In this spiritual journey of IMAGINE MORE TOGETHER, Engage Groups play a vital role. They are one of the most meaningful ways we live out being “together” as a church family.

Each study you explore in your Engage Group is designed with two key segments. The first focuses on what we long to receive more of from God — community, salvations, unity, and holiness. Through Scripture, we’ll discover how to experience these blessings more fully, both personally and as a church.

The second segment turns to the book of Nehemiah, where we see how God used Nehemiah to unite and lead His people in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. These lessons provide powerful insight for us as we consider how to work together in our own mission. As we IMAGINE MORE TOGETHER, Nehemiah’s story reminds us of what God can accomplish through His people when they are united in faith and purpose.

## MORE community

As we embark on this spiritual journey, pursuing more from Jesus, we focus on community and fostering stronger relationships. In the Bible, we discover a God who desires a relationship with us and created us with the capacity for deep and meaningful relationships with one another.

1. Briefly tell about a time when you had an awesome community and impactful connection with a group of people. What do you think made it such a great community?

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2. Scripture describes the church as one body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12).

a. What unique gift, perspective, or resource do you bring that could serve this group better?

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b. How can we draw out and celebrate each other's contributions?

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3. Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35 NIV).

a. What does "love one another" look like in everyday life for us?

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b. How could we raise the bar in how we care for each other this month?

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4. In Galatians 6:2, Paul talks about carrying one another's burdens fulfills the law of Christ.

a. What burden are you carrying right now that you could share with the group?

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b. What's a practical way our group can help shoulder that burden?

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5. In Acts 2:42-47, believers shared meals, prayed together, and gave to each other generously.

a. Which of those practices is our church doing well? Share examples.

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b. Which ones need more attention, and how can we do that better starting this week?

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6. Think about the difference between being “friendly” and being “deeply connected.”

a. Where do you see yourself on that spectrum within the church?

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b. What next step would move you closer to a deeper connection?

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## FOCUS ON NEHEMIAH

7. When you think about preparing for a trip or a project, do you get more excited or more irritated by the process? Why?

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8. Read Nehemiah 1:1-4.

a. What does this tell us about spiritual preparation for our new initiative?

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b. How have you participated in fasting and prayer for something before? How did that experience impact you?

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c. Will you commit to daily prayer and fasting from one meal each week during this journey?

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9. Looking at Nehemiah 2:

a. How does Nehemiah show wisdom in his preparations for the work he would be doing in Jerusalem?

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b. Where is the balance between wise preparation and stepping out in faith?

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c. What can you do to prepare yourself for this spiritual journey?

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## MORE salvations

Nothing is more important or more exciting than seeing lives changed by Jesus. We are deeply thankful for the hundreds of lives that have been changed by Jesus over the years at our church, but we are far from being satisfied. We want to see hundreds more come to faith in Jesus and hundreds more experience His life-changing power!

1. Was there a time that you were rescued from danger, or did you see someone being rescued from danger? Briefly tell the story.

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2. Read Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-7. What stands out to you in these verses about humanity's fall into sin?

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3. According to Romans 5:12, how are we still feeling the consequences of Adam's sin in the garden?

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4. What do Romans 10:9-10 and Ephesians 2:8-9 tell us about God's solution to rescue us from our sin?

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5. Briefly tell your story of putting your faith in Jesus and becoming His follower. Who influenced you in that process and decision?

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6. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:6-8.

- a. What do they tell us about the message of Jesus reaching people?

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- b. How would you explain salvation in simple terms to someone who has never heard the Gospel?

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7. What obstacles do you personally face in telling more people about Jesus? How can you overcome that obstacle?

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8. Who is one person you can pray for daily, looking for an opportunity to tell them (or tell them again) about Jesus?

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## FOCUS ON NEHEMIAH

Sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who need to hear it is a mission that requires every one of us. Nehemiah demonstrates the power of everyone participating in a mission.

9. What do you notice about the wide variety of people mentioned in Nehemiah 3? What does this tell us about the role we can each play in God's mission?

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10. In Nehemiah 3, we read that everyone had a section of the wall to work on.

a. How does this speak to the level of participation needed in our mission to spread the Good News of Jesus?

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b. What "section of the wall" has God put in front of you right now?

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c. How are you going to participate in spreading the Good News in your "section of the wall"?

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## MORE unity

Our world is naturally divisive, and conflict abounds everywhere. Humanity is great at picking sides and standing in opposition to the other side. Whether it is nations, ideologies, sports teams, or the orientation of toilet paper in the holder, we live in disunity. That's what makes unity even more important and amazing within the church. Our unity should be a beacon of God's goodness to our divisive world.

1. Briefly share about the people and groups you have felt the most unity with. What factors or dynamics made that unity so strong?

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2. John 17:20-23 (NIV) says, *"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."*

- a. Why do you think Jesus focused on unity in His prayer for us?

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- b. What is the basis for our unity in Jesus' prayer? Why is true unity impossible without this basis?

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- c. What is the outward impact of our unity in verse 23? Why would unity have this impact?

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3. Ephesians 4:1-3 (NIV) says, *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

- a. What does the instruction to "maintain" the unity of the Spirit in verse 3 tell us about the nature of unity?

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- b. How do verses 1-2 feed into our unity and our ability to maintain unity?

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4. What are some barriers to unity you have observed or experienced in your church relationships? Were those barriers overcome? If so, how? If not, why not?

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5. How is unity different than uniformity? Why is that distinction important?

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6. Our differences can make our unity stronger or be a source of disunity.  
How can we ensure they help rather than hurt our sense of unity?

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FOCUS ON NEHEMIAH

7. Briefly share about a time that you faced opposition in some task or project.

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8. In Nehemiah 4, the Israelites faced opposition in their work to rebuild the city walls. What do we learn about facing our own opposition in the following verses?

a. Verses 4-5

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b. Verses 6

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c. Verses 9-14

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9. How might we face opposition as a church as we enter this journey to IMAGINE MORE TOGETHER?

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10. Will you commit to praying often for the unity and strength of our church as we take this journey? Take time to pray for these things as a group right now.

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MORE holiness

God’s holiness can be called a keystone attribute because His holiness impacts every other aspect of His character. His holiness makes His love perfect. His holiness makes His wrath just and His mercy righteous. As followers of Jesus, we are called to give our best each day as we follow Him faithfully. Part of this is learning and choosing to live a life of increasing holiness.

- 1. One meaning of the term “holy” is set apart for a special purpose. Were there certain objects in your home growing up that were set apart for special purposes and never used otherwise?

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- 2. Holiness is also defined as morally pure and perfect. How do you think of holiness when you read it in the Bible?

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- 3. Isaiah 6:1-7 gives us a rare glimpse into God’s holy presence.

- a. What stands out to you in this vision of God?

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- b. Of all the things the seraphim could say about God, why do you think God has them declaring His holiness?

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- 4. Read Hebrews 12:14 and 1 Peter 1:14-16. Verses like these call us to live holy lives as we follow Jesus.

- a. Why is living a “holy life” different than just being a “good person”?

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- b. Since holy means morally pure and perfect, how does this shape our goal of living holy lives?

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- c. Since holy means set apart for a special purpose, how do we live lives that are set apart for God?

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5. What is one area in your life where God may be calling you to greater holiness?

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6. How can you practically live a life that is more “set apart” for God in your daily life?

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## FOCUS ON NEHEMIAH

Sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who need to hear it is a mission that requires every one of us. Nehemiah demonstrates the power of everyone participating in a mission.

7. Read Nehemiah 5:6-13 and discuss how Nehemiah’s determination to honor God shaped his leadership. How can we have this determination to honor God in our initiative?

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8. How does Nehemiah show determination against distraction in 6:2-4?

a. What kinds of things can become distractions in our lives as we participate in IMAGINE MORE TOGETHER?

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b. What tends to weaken your determination more — outside factors or internal struggles? How can we resist all of these distractions?

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