**Sermon Date** – December 5, 2021

**Series –** Nehemiah: Love our City for the Savior of the City

**Scripture –** Nehemiah 11:1-4 ESV

*Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem. And the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Jerusalem the holy city, while nine out of ten remained in the other towns. 2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem. 3 These are the chiefs of the province who lived in Jerusalem; but in the towns of Judah everyone lived on his property in their towns: Israel, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants, and the descendants of Solomon's servants. 4 And in Jerusalem lived certain of the sons of Judah and of the sons of Benjamin.*

**Big Idea** – Love our city for the Savior of the city.

**Summary** –

Nehemiah 11 tells how God’s Holy City was repopulated by sacrificial volunteers who took the risk of love on an uncertain future. God had designated his mission for Jerusalem. *“You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”* (Exodus 19:6)

**Questions** –

* Randy began this sermon by asking us repeatedly, “How do you feel about the city?” How do you feel about the cities of Champaign-Urbana? Why?
* In verse one scripture says the people cast lots to bring one out of 10 to live in Jerusalem. Why did they have this lottery?

What is significant about one out of 10?

* What would be required of the people who were chosen to live in the restored city?

Considering the history of Jerusalem, was their future certain? Why or why not?

* Verses 4-36 list the names of those who were chosen to live in Jerusalem. (Aren’t you glad you don’t have to read those names out loud!) What is the significance of listing all those names in scripture?

What is God’s purpose in repopulating the city?

* Isiah 58:11 -- *“And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.”* Jerusalem was a scorched place. We typically pray for God to lead us to green pastures beside still waters. What was God’s plan in leading the new inhabitants to a “scorched place”?
* Has God ever led you to a scorched place? What did he teach you there?
* Exodus 19:6 states God’s mission statement for us as believers. “*You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”*  A priest is a go-between, an ambassador, one who represents God. Our mission is to represent God in our cities. Randy said, “We are leaven or yeast for the city.” What does he mean by that?

What are ways that we can fulfill our mission as God’s representatives?

* Does your discussion change your response to Randy’s question, “How do you feel about the city?” Why?