

# MODULE 7: SEEKING THE HEART OF YOUR CITY

# INTRODUCTION

In this module, **Josh Williams** teaches how to follow God's call to love your community and work for Jesus' desired transformation in your city or town. Then, he guides us through simple steps for beginning the work of serving your community alongside others in your church.



This module's teaching will help you answer two central questions:

1. How can I discern how God is calling me to join His work in my community?
2. How do I get started in serving my city with others from my church?

# SESSION 1: SEEKING THE HEART OF YOUR CITY, PART 1

## *Video Notes*

**Love leads to service** (John 1:14; 3:16; 10:10). Jesus loved those outside of His immediate religious community. Jesus deeply loves the world and calls us to serve others, and desires transformation in our communities. The Church is called not only to pastor its members, but also to shepherd the city. As John Wimber said, “The meat is in the streets.”

**Step 1: Pray.** Prayer is the way you align your heart with God’s heart for your city. You can build rhythms of prayer for your city into church life and into your own personal practice.

**Step 2: Learn the redemptive history of your city or town.** This involves discovering what God has done historically—spiritually and socially—in your city or town. Doing this helps you identify themes of God’s movement (freedom, justice, revival) and offers stories that can build credibility, encourage evangelism, and shape vision for your work.

**Step 3: Just start serving!** Don’t get stuck in analysis paralysis: pick a place to serve—even short-term. It’s okay if it’s not perfect—just get started. Faithfulness in small things opens doors for greater impact.

## SESSION 1: SEEKING THE HEART OF YOUR CITY, PART 1

### *Reflection Questions*

- 1.** What is God's heart for your city or town, and how are you being invited to align your prayers, compassion, and attention with it? *Start by asking: what breaks God's heart in your community, and what brings Him joy?*
- 2.** What part of what you know of your city's redemptive history or story might inform how you engage with its people today? Where has God already been at work, and how can you join that ongoing story?
- 3.** Where can you take a simple, faithful step to serve your community—and how might that action shape your heart and witness?

## SESSION 2: SEEKING THE HEART OF YOUR CITY, PART 2

### *Video Notes*

- 1. Understanding the needs of your city helps uncover opportunities for impact.**
- 2. First: Identify needs and opportunities in your city.**
  - Start with *research*. Ask the leaders of your church and the leaders of your community (e.g., police/fire chiefs, city officials, community representatives) about community needs.
  - Look for *opportunities*. Something like “walkability” can indicate opportunities and be used to your advantage. Ask around, conduct surveys, and gather firsthand insights.
  - Gather the *data*. Facts and figures provide clarity and help you determine what action step to take next.
- 3. Then, discern what action you should take or where you should begin.** In discernment, always listen first—through scripture, prayer, and prophetic guidance; be realistic and wise in assessing what you’ve learned; and pray about the alignment between community needs and your calling.
- 4. Finally: Jump in!** Faith without works is dead—taking action is both obedience and an act of worship. Fight the excuses and, if no one else is doing it, learn to discern and act together as a community.

## SESSION 2: SEEKING THE HEART OF YOUR CITY, PART 2

### *Reflection Questions*

- 1.** What steps have you personally taken (or could take) to learn about the real needs in your city or neighborhood? Who are the people or leaders you can reach out to for insight? What have you learned from them so far? Or, what would you like to learn?
- 2.** Where do you sense alignment between your gifts/calling and your city's needs? What area of brokenness or opportunity stirs your compassion or conviction most deeply?
- 3.** What barriers (internal or external) do you think may slow you or your church from taking action? How might God be inviting you to move past them?
- 4.** What is one small, faithful step you (or your group) can take this month to move toward meeting a need in your city? How can you frame that step as both obedience and worship?