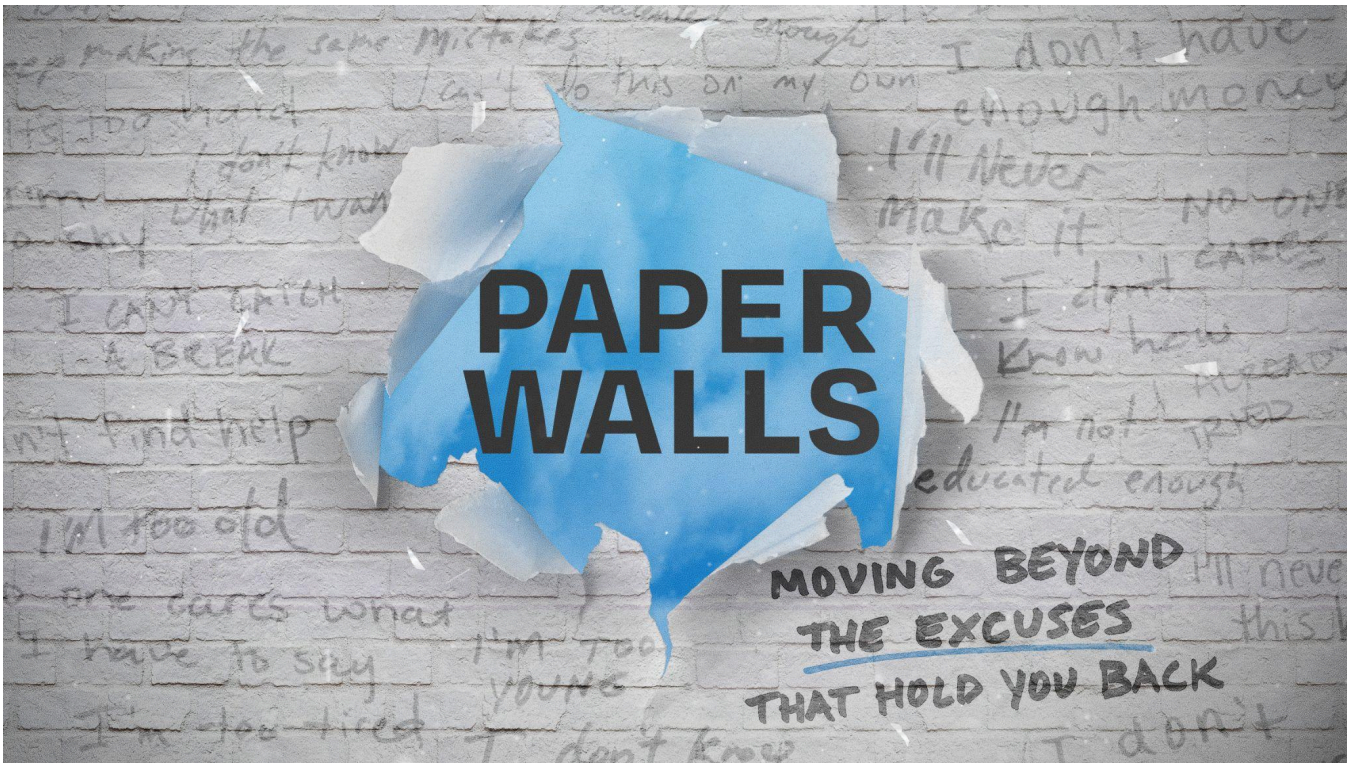

PART 2: BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...

INTRODUCTION

Whether fueled by fear, insecurity, or a past event, many of us construct a paper wall of excuses that holds us back. We often pass these excuses off as reasons, but in reality they are lies we tell ourselves about ourselves. It's time to break through the excuses you make that keep you from being who God created you to be.

KEY SCRIPTURE

John 3:16 Luke 9:59-62 Matthew 25:14-30

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What common excuses come to mind in these scenarios? They could be excuses you've used or heard, or maybe you have some humorous excuses that would finish these sentences well.

    - I was running late because…
    - I didn't do my homework because…
    - I would have applied for that job, but…
    - I was going to say something in the meeting, but…
    - I don't exercise much because…
    - My spouse and I haven't done a date night in a while because…

2. Read Luke 9:59-62. What excuses have you made for not following Jesus with certain parts of your life (like finances, relationships, etc.)? How would Jesus respond to your "reasons"?

3. Read Jesus' parable from Matthew 25:14-30 aloud. Why would Jesus use such harsh consequences as the illustration for the third servant in verses 26-30?

4. Did any of your own paper walls come to mind during the message? If so, what fear or insecurity is at the root of that paper wall?

5. How would someone who truly loves you respond to your "reasons"?

Application Prayer: Lord, I bring you my excuses today. I don't want to look back with regret over living behind paper walls. I am asking you to help me break through to live as you intended.