

Vision Week

Introduction:

In our lesson today from Romans 15, the Apostle Paul encourages the church to “overflow” with hope as they help each other grow in their faith (vs. 14), to reach out to others (vs. 20), and to love and serve one another (vs 5-8). Paul had heard and shared the good news of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection and this, in his view, changes everything. By the work of the cross we have been adopted into God’s family, become an inheritor of the kingdom of God, and are sanctified and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. We are now sent on a Holy mission to reach the whole world with the message of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

We, together, today, are on that same mission. The invitation is to join God in His work in our world, to “reach out” in word and deed with His love, to “root deep” in His word and grow in faith and maturity in Christ, and to “love one another” as Jesus has called us to love. Reach out. Root Deep. Love One Another.

That is the calling and the vision. You were made for this.

Read Your Bible

- Romans 15:1-20
- John 15:5-17

Apply God’s Word to Your Life:

1. Yes or no, do you think most people lack a vision for their life?
2. What do most people live for?
3. Have you ever felt you lacked vision or purpose? What was that like?
4. What do the Apostle Paul’s words in Romans 15 mean to you? Do they apply today?
5. What are some challenges to reaching out and inviting others to know Jesus?
6. What are the barriers to growing deeper in your faith?
7. Why is loving one another so important, yet so very hard?
8. What does it look like to Overflow with Hope for you?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Father, you have blessed us so abundantly and we thank you. Thank you for the blessing of home, family, employment, food, and community. Thank you for this abundant world that supplies all we need for daily living. Thank you for loving us unconditionally and completely on the cross. Your forgiveness and mercy are life and the light of our lives. May we never take that for granted, and may we overflow

with your goodness and love so that our lives are poured out in abundant blessing, service, and generosity to all. In Jesus' Name. Amen.