



## SANCTUARY REFLECTION GUIDE

### January 19, 2025

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**Title:** Dream Big

**Preacher:** Rev. Paul Rasmussen

**Scripture:** Joel 2:28-29

Do you ever dream? Not just in sleep, but during the day—thinking about the big, perhaps impossible things you would love to see happen in your life. Some of us have stopped dreaming altogether, deciding that dreams are nothing more than sentimental distractions. Or maybe we've tucked our dreams away on a high shelf, letting them gather dust.

Dreams matter to God. Too often, we let the limitations of our circumstances or the expectations of our world shrink our dreams. But when we open ourselves up to God's vision, we see that His plans for us are far greater than anything we could imagine on our own. In this sermon, we will discover God's invitation to dream *boldly*, even when the path ahead seems uncertain. If you have suppressed your dreams or given up on them, you won't want to miss this.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. What is a story you've heard about someone achieving their dream that inspired you lately?
3. Read Ephesians 2:10 together. What stands out to you about this verse? How does it encourage you to dream big?

4. How does God's view of success differ from how the world views it? How can we align our dreams with the priorities of God's kingdom, instead of worldly standards?
5. What dreams do you have for your family? Our church? What about our city? Is there a step we can take together to act on those dreams?

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

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This week, we invite you to **spend some time in listening prayer.**

Prayer is a conversation with God, which means that it involves both talking and *listening*. As we consider the big dreams God may be planting in our hearts, let's give God the floor by opening ourselves in silence to hear whatever the Holy Spirit might want to say.

Set a timer for at least five minutes of quiet and settle into a comfortable spot. Take a few deep breaths to settle into the silence. Open yourself up to the agenda of the Spirit without expectations.

Thoughts and distractions will arise, so just acknowledge them and allow them to pass. Even though it may feel awkward or difficult to stay in the moment, try to embrace the vulnerability and allow the Spirit to guide the moment.

It's unlikely that you will hear an audible voice, but how do you sense God nudging you? When the timer runs out, take a few moments to pray about anything that came up and ask Him for what you need. If you feel afraid or timid when it comes to pursuing your dreams, ask Him for courage. If you have experienced broken dreams or disappointment, ask Him for healing.