

Date of Sermon: November 8th

Topic of Sermon: Surviving in Crazy Times: Get Back to the Basics

Main Passage: Romans 12: 9-13

BEFORE your group meeting:

- **Participate in Worship** in-person or online to hear the sermon you will be discussing.
 - You can also catch-up on YouTube or at https://www.foresthill.org/en/on_demand
- **Encourage your group members** to watch the sermon and take a closer look at the Scripture that is used.
- **Look over the questions** provided below and think through your own responses.
- **Plan your meeting.** The Dig Deeper section is great to use in your group discussion (if there's time) or you can send it out to your group members after the meeting for their personal devotion time.
- **Pray for the Spirit** to use your group discussion to encourage dynamic life in Christ in each of you.

What's the Big Idea?

**The way forward in crazy times is to get back to the basics:
be joyful in hope, patient in trouble and constant in prayer.**

Get Started

When times are hard, what are your default ways of coping? Do you lash out? Numb out? Isolate? How have you coped with the uncertainty of this year?

Dive into the Sermon

- Paul wrote Romans to help the church in Rome which was made up of people from different backgrounds who were living in the midst of a pandemic and political crisis. Can you relate? Read Romans 12:9-13. **What is Paul's first piece of advice to the Roman church? How would you define "love without hypocrisy"? How would you define 'love'? How have you seen people 'really loving each other' in this challenging season? Give a specific example.**
- Paul says to 'be joyful in hope'. **How would you define 'hope'? What are some things put your hope in naturally? What did Paul encourage the Romans to hope in (see Romans 5)? How does hope bring joy? How does hope help you to love others?**
- Paul says to "be patient in trouble". One way to translate this is to endure under pressure. **When is a time that you were patient in trouble or afflictions in the past? How did that experience help you endure in any troubles you are having now?**
- Lastly, Paul says to "be constant in prayer". Prayer has been called the 'soul breathing'. When things get crazy, we often are told to stop and take a breath. **How does prayer help us take a breath? How can prayer help us to love others well, especially if we are very different than them?**

Dig Deeper into a Scripture Passage

Use the *HEAR Bible Reading Method* to learn more what the Bible teaches us about wise speech



Bible-Reading Tip: Begin by asking God to open your eyes and hearts to His Word. In 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, Paul writes that the Spirit – who lives inside everyone who believes in Jesus – knows the depths of God and reveals Him to those who follow Jesus. So, always begin your time of reading the Bible with a prayer for Him to open your eyes and ears to what He will reveal. This doesn't mean that you will always have an emotional encounter or a special revelation, but you are acknowledging that He is that One through whom all wisdom is revealed.

Romans 12: 9- 12 (CSB):

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. ¹¹ Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. ¹³ Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

What do you learn by looking at another Translation?

Romans 12: 9- 12 (NLT):

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

HEAR Bible Reading Method

HIGHLIGHT the passage

- Underline any repeated words or key ideas you see.
- Note any questions you have about what you read.
- In 2-3 sentences, summarize what was said or what happened.

EXPLAIN the passage

- What was revealed about God? His character, desires, and/or actions?
- What was revealed about people? What we are/do or what we should be/do?

APPLY the passage

- From this reading, what truth do you need to embrace?
- By God's power, how will you THINK, SPEAK, or ACT differently based on what you read?

RESPOND to the passage

- Talk to God about what you've seen and learned in this passage.
- Ask Him to help you apply the truth to your life.