



Theme: God's Dreams

"Dreams to Make Us Strong"

Jeff Huber, September 26-27, 2026, at Summit Church, Durango

Weekly Memory Verse:

³¹ But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like eagles.

They will run and not grow weary.

They will walk and not faint. – Isaiah 40:31

SLIDE Dreams to Bring to Make Us Strong

Today we continue a series of sermons on dreams, and in particular God's dreams and what those might mean for our lives and how they might **make a real difference**. I want to suggest to you that **dreams today are more important** than ever and it's especially important to remember one of the main purposes of dreams is to **bring us hope**.

I was going to start today by asking if you have ever run a marathon and run out of steam before you got to the end, but I realized that most of us are smart enough not to run marathons. I have the utmost respect for those of you who run marathons because I have never been able to do long distances like that. So instead, I thought I'd

ask you if you have ever been driving somewhere and run out of gas? My wife gets mad at me because sometimes I let the gasket down to the very end, especially when I'm going to fill up in Pagosa or Cortez at city market and used my city market fuel which are going to get me a dollar off a gallon because we have nowhere else to use them here in town. She will tell you that I'm horrible at this but I'm not that bad.

GRAPHIC Datsun 510 Station Wagon

GRAPHIC Rio Del Mar Surfing

GRAPHIC Rio Del Mar at Sunset

I was thinking about a time that I was driving my Datsun 510 station wagon that I introduced you to last week which was my first car from my house in the East Bay which is east of San Francisco to Santa Cruz where I was going to go surfing for the weekend with some friends. We needed to get there early to catch the big surf, so we were loaded up and headed out on the freeway. But about halfway up the Santa Cruz mountains the car began to sputter, and I realized the gas gauge was broken because I never let it get quite THAT low. We ended up having to walk for quite a while and we didn't get there until it looked like this, which was sunset and there were no more waves, but we did enjoy the evening on the beach. I remember my friends yelling and cussing at me, but I really didn't care because it's pretty beautiful. I want us to think about this question today.

SLIDE How do we find strength when we're out of gas?

We know that when our body or our car needs fuel we need to find something to fill it up. But what do we use to fill us up when we need help dreaming? I would suggest to you that we need to flip this around in our minds because it is not about having enough strength to dream but remembering that dreams are meant to be a gift from God that can make us strong even when we're out of gas. Here's a definition of a dream that I find helpful and that we're going to use throughout

this series. We will discover this idea in the scriptures over the next few weeks together.

SLIDE A dream is the distinct vision and hope that stirs the imagination and calls us forward into the future.

Last week we talked about how sometimes it's hard to dream because of the circumstances in our lives. Many people feel hopeless as they look at the state of the world in many different ways and we find that the words of scripture are very helpful to remind us of two important truths that I remind you of last week. We talked about how we don't have control over the circumstances going on in the world around us or sometimes even in our own lives. Sometimes, we do things which cause pain and hurt and bring us a sense of discouragement, and sometimes people do things to us or things are happening in the world around us that make us feel hopeless.

We remembered that even in those moments where life feels hopeless for whatever reason, there is always hope because our God is one who made us to love us and not for us to be discouraged or depressed. I suggested that we learn in the scripture from many different people's experiences that even when they or in a dark place they were able to hear words that would allow them to borrow hope from God so they could dream again.

SLIDE We can borrow hope from God to dream again.

We learned specifically about Jeremiah who was a prophet that lived between the time of two great empires about 700 years before the time of Jesus in the nation of Israel. He was living in Jerusalem and was imprisoned because he had spoken out against a king who had done evil in the sight of the Lord and who had walked away from God and was worshipping money and wealth and power. But then the Babylonian empire descends upon what is left of the nation of Israel and destroys everything, including the temple, killing thousands of

people and then forcing the king to watch his children killed in front of him. The Babylonians gouge out the eyes of the king so the last thing he sees is his monarchy end and then he is forced to March with the people into exile in Babylon.

GRAPHIC Babylonian Exile

We looked at this map together and remember that in 586 BCE this conquest and exile of the Israelites led them to carry what is your Hebrew Bible, our Old Testament, with them as a way of remembering their God and the words of promise that God gave them. The prophet Jeremiah spoke words that were recorded during this exile and before they returned 70 years later to be able to rebuild their city of Jerusalem and their faith. The memory verse for this last week captures this idea that you may have heard before because it is a very common scripture for people to remember and memorize from Jeremiah 29.

BIBLE

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

We talked about how this idea of exile can be something that we experience today. Sometimes we see it when floodwater rises or disaster strikes. Sometimes we experience it personally when we go through a divorce or a breakup, or we get diagnosis or financial setback. We named many ways that we can find ourselves in exile and yet we remembered this truth that we talked about last week that I want to remind you about this week as we continue to talk about dreams.

SLIDE Exile will never be the final word

I wanted to remind you about Jeremiah’s experience and his story because the prophet Isaiah was written during this similar time in the life of the nation of Israel. Just like Jeremiah, the first chapters of Isaiah

are warnings about what will happen if they turn away from God and they follow the strange gods that were being put forth in the ancient near east 700 years before the time of Jesus. They get pulled into money and power, being the most important thing, and they end up in exile in Babylon and then beginning in chapter 40, Isaiah's tone shifts.

Many Biblical scholars set chapters 40-55 apart as being written by another voice called Many scholars recognize this may even be a different author because the tone is so different and it is often called "Second Isaiah," or "Isaiah of the Exile," or "Isaiah of Babylon," with the author writing to the people who were living through Babylonian exile. Listen to these words at the end of Isaiah 39.

BIBLE

² Hezekiah was delighted with the Babylonian envoys and showed them everything in his treasure-houses—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the aromatic oils. He also took them to see his armory and showed them everything in his royal treasuries! There was nothing in his palace or kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them.

³ Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked him, "What did those men want? Where were they from?"

Hezekiah replied, "They came from the distant land of Babylon."

⁴ "What did they see in your palace?" asked Isaiah.

"They saw everything," Hezekiah replied. "I showed them everything I own—all my royal treasuries."

⁵ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Listen to this message from the Lord of Heaven's Armies: ⁶ 'The time is coming when everything in your palace—all the treasures stored up by your ancestors until now—will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left,' says the Lord. ⁷ 'Some of your very own sons will be taken away

into exile. They will become eunuchs who will serve in the palace of Babylon's king.'"

⁸ Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "This message you have given me from the Lord is good." For the king was thinking, "At least there will be peace and security during my lifetime."

The reign of king Hezekiah is what begins the downfall of Israel. I thought it might be helpful for you to see this in a chart because I know it's helpful for me to get a sense of how this shift begins to happen. In the first graphic you will see a chart of all the Kings, and one Queen, of Israel and the prophets. You can see it's a very large chart and it covers a time from 586 BCE until around 1100 BCE so about 600 years. The second chart shows what we call the United Kingdom meaning the north and the South of Israel are one nation and you have the kings David, Saul, and Solomon. They all were both good and evil depending on the time of their lives that you're looking at. The map shows you what happens after king Solomon when the two kingdoms divide into the Kingdom of Israel in the north and the Kingdom of Judah in the South. The north is where Jesus of Nazareth is from and his public ministry happens around the sea of Galilee. The South is where the capital of Israel is found in Jerusalem with Bethlehem being nearby where Jesus was born. From top to bottom this is about 100 miles and about 40 miles across so not very much territory. I like to remind people that this area was often at war because it was the land bridge between the 3 continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

GRAPHIC Chart of Israels Kings and Prophets

GRAPHIC Chart of United Kingdoms

GRAPHIC Map of Divided Kingdom

GRAPHIC Chart of Isaiah and Kings

GRAPHIC Assyrian Exile

GRAPHIC Chart of Isaiah and Jeremiah and Kings

GRAPHIC Babylonian Exile

The middle part of the chart with the kings and the counterpart prophets is the next section which shows when the prophet Isaiah begins giving messages to the king. You're gonna notice that in the northern Kingdom we find just about every king did evil of some sort, ending in the destruction of that Kingdom by the Assyrians in 722 BCE. That is named on the right side of this chart and you also notice what I have circled which is that each of those kings in the northern Kingdom did evil in the sight of the Lord, things like worshipping other gods and overtaxing their workers and sacrificing children. This is what leads to that Assyrian exile that we talked about last week Where the northern Kingdom is destroyed and we never hear from it again. The Assyrians bring people from another part of the world into the northern part of Israel and that group becomes Samaritans eventually.

When we move to the next section of the chart, we find the prophet Jeremiah and what most scholars call second Isaiah which begins in chapter 40. Notice that these kings all at the bottom eventually did evil in the sight of the Lord. The last one to do anything good was Hezekiah that we just read about at the end of Isaiah 39. There is this gap that happens then when it comes to aligning up the book of Isaiah with the kings as he now is writing after all of these other kings did evil and horrible things, ending with Zedekiah that we talked about last week and was the king who watched his children be murdered and then led the people into exile in Babylon.

Again, I want to remind us that the reason this history and these charts are helpful and important is because if we are honest we all have times of exile that we have experienced and it's the words of Isaiah in chapter 40 which begin to turn the tide. You are going to be able to read the entire chapter this week if you use the meditation moments

and I encourage you to do that because it's some of the most beautiful words in all of literature. It ends with these words that contain our memory verse for the week and our words that we often read at funerals as we think about saying goodbye to someone and still being able to dream again about them and about life.

BIBLE

²⁸ **Have you never heard?
Have you never understood?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of all the earth.
He never grows weak or weary.
No one can measure the depths of his understanding.**

²⁹ **He gives power to the weak
and strength to the powerless.**

³⁰ **Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.**

³¹ **But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint.**

Isaiah is speaking these words to people that are in the middle of exile and have no idea when they will return. He reminds them that faith is about a marathon and not a Sprint. He gives these images to encourage them and to invite them to hold on because it is trusting in the Lord that brings us strength. It is holding on to this dream that God is with us that will allow us to soar on wings like eagles and run and knock weary and walk and not be faint.

This week I was talking with one of my close pastor friends who was in the middle of a vacation this summer when he had a strange infection take over his entire body and they thought he was going to

die in a foreign country. He eventually made it home and he continues to have IV antibiotic infusions every few days as his body continues to recover from this strange infection. I told him I was preaching on this text this week and he said these were some of the words he held on to when he was in the middle of his exile and he dared to dream about returning to the pulpit someday and being able to lead his church. He is a huge mountain biker and said this text helped him to dream about riding that bike again in the mountains. I'm happy to say that he is today back at work but there were moments when we doubted that would happen. He has not been cleared yet to ride but hopes to be in the coming weeks. That is exactly how the people of Israel felt as Isaiah gave them these words.

SLIDE We borrow strength from God to dream again.

Last week we talked about borrowing hope from God so we might dream again and today I want to encourage you to borrow strength from God when you feel like giving up or that there is no way your dreams will come true. The profound idea is that dreams can give us strength to get through difficult times, even if it doesn't work out just the way we want or the dream doesn't come true just the way we are hoping. I find it fascinating that the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus begins with a dream that comes from the prophet Isaiah. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus begins his public ministry at his hometown in Nazareth at the synagogue by preaching these words in Luke 4.

BIBLE

¹⁶ When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. ¹⁷ The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

**for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free,
¹⁹ and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."**

This text comes right out of Isaiah 61 and is meant to be good news for the oppressed. He goes on to talk about what this means and what it will look like and then the people in his hometown did this.

BIBLE

²⁸ When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. ²⁹ Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, ³⁰ but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

Jesus has this dream that is given to him by his heavenly father and when he begins to share that dream it is clear he's going to need some strength because the people didn't want to hear it. They demanded Jesus heal them because it was all about them and it's this idea that we humans can be pretty selfish, even when we stand face to face with Jesus. Sometimes, we would rather push Jesus off a cliff if we can't get our way. I would say this never leads to strength but instead wears us out as we are constantly fighting against this dream that Jesus preaches from the very beginning of his public ministry.

I was in a webinar this week and I was reminded of this powerful quote from Victor Frankl in his book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, about how he survived years in a Nazi concentration camp where he watched people being sent to the gas chamber and furnaces. I would say this is on my essential books that every single person should have to read at some point in their life.

GRAPHIC Viktor Frankl Quote 1

“Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.”

He goes on to write these profound words.

“When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.”

As followers of Jesus, we believe we change ourselves by allowing him to give us strength and to form us into something that we could never do on our own. One of the greatest skills for changing ourselves is PRAYER. I think of CS Lewis who once said, **“I don't pray to change God, I pray to change myself.”**

Part of our challenge is that we often pray for our will to be done instead of God's will to be done. Jesus, when he was in the garden of Gethsemane just before he goes to a cross, praise this powerful prayer that is honest and recognizes the exile that he is in as he is confronted with the political and religious powers of his day. We read these powerful words in Luke 22.

BIBLE

⁴² **“Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”**

⁴³ **Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him.**

⁴⁴ **He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.**

I love this powerful reminder that it was in the middle of prayer that Jesus received strength to move forward even though it was difficult it wasn't what he wanted. I must be honest and say that many times when I pray that I'm pretty selfish and self-centered. I wish I wasn't that way, but my guess is that most of us are like that. I often want God to act like Santa Claus or a genie in a bottle but that is not

how God works and that is not how the world works. When we pray, we transfer the risks, responsibilities and rewards to God. We want to make sure that the dream isn't simply a scheme. If the dream only benefits us, and is selfish and self-centered, it's a scheme. But if it gives itself away and invests itself in others—the dream is a gift from God. We want the dream to be transferred to others and be part of God's work in the world.

GRAPHIC Eric Lock

Eric Lock was an active 15-year-old high school athlete from Glendale, Arizona, who was tragically paralyzed during his first freshman wrestling match on December 11, 1980. Just 33 seconds into the match at Apollo High School, Lock suffered a catastrophic spinal cord injury. The severe trauma immediately left him unable to move, speak, or breathe on his own. A neonatal respiratory doctor who happened to be in the crowd attending his own son's match immediately stepped in to perform a medical assessment, which saved Eric's life before he was helicoptered to the hospital.

His mother, Jo Ellyn Lock, detailed the family's subsequent 29-year journey, trials, and emotional heartbreak in a memoir titled The Three Percenters: A Family's Fight for Survival. Eric's parents persisted in prayer. Eric's church and youth group prayed. They all gathered with Eric, and they began to pray with him. They said, "Eric, let's not allow this reversal to turn into regrets. If dreams turn to regrets they can destroy us. Let's transfer the dream to the ONE who gave you the dream. And we can do that if we pray."

So, they prayed together. I'm not sure how they found the strength to do that. But they just prayed that God would not leave them and their dreams. Eric did live and he did end up breathing on his own. He was in a wheelchair and a quadriplegic the rest of his life. What was most important to Eric was what happened to him. What

happens when we transfer the dream through prayer is that the dream is not the ultimate—it's the dreamer that God is concerned with.

GRAPHIC It's the dreamer God is concerned with.

Hear that again. When we pray, we realize that the dream is not the ultimate goal, but rather the DREAMER God loves is the point. God made you to love you, and God loves you as the dreamer more than the dreams we have. What's important is what happens to us when you and I live out our God given dream. It's true that Eric trusted the Lord and waited upon the Lord and his strength was renewed. Eric's strength was mounted up on the wings of an eagle. He was able to run and not be weary, run and not faint. Even though Eric could not walk, THIS was his favorite Bible verse.

Eric died at the age of 44 in 2010. He was an inspiration to many, and I love what his mother wrote about him on Easter weekend after his death.

As Easter Weekend is here, we realize the total gift we have been given as your parents Eric. Your legacy to us has been a parents' dream of thanking the Lord for the 44 years and 4 months of memories...Eric we have always and will always love, cherish, and be so proud to be your parents. Yes, you came into our lives with a heartfelt joy, and you left our view on a heartfelt day... Valentine's Day 2010. You have been and will always be close to our hearts. As your mother, I am at peace for I know you are with the Lord... God Bless You Now and Always 'til we meet again.....Your earthly mother, Jo

SLIDE Prayer transfers the dream to God, who is the dream-Giver.

SLIDE Prayer transforms the dreamer.

Prayer not only TRANSFERS the dream to God, the dream-Giver, but prayer TRANSFORMS the dreamer. One of the reasons we give you

the meditation moment each week is because there is a prayer for each day and our hope is that we won't just receive the Bible study part and have it just be information, but that instead we will experience transformation, changed hearts. If you want some encouragement on how to pray, we have some prayers that you might use then you can go to our website, and we have a page on how to pray. It also has a list of scriptures and prayers for tough times when we need to be filled up and we need strength. We have copies of these at our welcome center as well and you can find them on the links page if you scan the QR code in front of you.

GRAPHIC **How to Pray Summit Webpage** (put the address at the bottom... <https://www.summitdurango.org/how-to-pray/>)

I think about Sue from my last congregation, who came to us when she discovered she had lymphoma. The doctors told her she probably would die from the disease. She wanted to come to a church and find answers. She and her family were searching. This can't happen! She was so young, she had young children. She came to the prayer team and began to pray with them. She was put on our prayer list. Through prayer and persistence Sue was able to endure a lot of chemotherapy. She endured operations.

During her illness Sue found her faith being transformed. She found her relationship strengthened and her faith strengthened others around her. She would tell her friends and family that she was a more beautiful person after having discovered cancer than before. Sue was transformed. She was transformed in this life and prepared for the next. That's what can happen as God gives us a dream and borrow strength from God when we have run out of it ourselves.

What I believe we are meant to discover is that it's the ultimate dream God has for us, to be close to him, that will bring us great joy.

Prayer TRANSFERS the dream to God, the dream-Giver. Prayer **TRANSFORMS the dreamer to bring us closer to God**. And prayer **TRANSCENDS the dreamer**, helping us to see beyond the dream. Sometimes we can get so focused on our dream, we miss the bigger picture.

I again find myself remembering the words of Viktor Frankl.

“Don't aim at success. The more you aim at it and make it a target, the more you are going to miss it. For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued; it must ensue, and it only does so as the unintended side effect of one's personal dedication to a cause greater than oneself or as the by-product of one's surrender to a person other than oneself. Happiness must happen, and the same holds for success: you must let it happen by not caring about it... Then you will live to see that in the long-run—in the long-run, I say! — success will follow you precisely because you had forgotten to think about it.”

I appreciate these words because they remind us that dreaming takes risk because when we dream sometimes, we don't know where we're going to end up in the end. We may find the success we are hoping for, but it may be that dreams turn out looking different than what we thought.

SLIDE Dreams are risky business

Take a risk and have people think you're crazy. When we talk about a big dream, we must be careful because it can scare others. Big dreams are risky. I was fortunate enough to go to the Kennedy Space Center several years ago. The most powerful image is the Astronaut Memorial. Black marble stands as an ominous reminder of the risk many have taken to dream about space flight. I found tears filling my eyes as I looked at the name Chista McCollough, a schoolteacher who dared fly in the Challenger. I can remember sitting in class in the

University of Colorado in Boulder and watching our alumnus, Ellison Onizuka ride off into space, only to perish with Christa in a ball of flame. It was a painful reminder of shattered dreams and lives that were lost. But because they dared, they did not die with a dream inside. They died for their dream. Are you willing to die for a God-given dream in your own life? It takes a lot of courage and strength and hope to dare.

GRAPHIC Astronaut Memorial at Kennedy Space Center

I am thinking of Andy Singletary. Andy was a slow learner in our school district when I was in Junior High. Andy didn't quite fit in with the rest of the students, so Andy was in special education. He had an IQ of 55. So, Andy's parents' kind of kept Andy on the sideline. Then they decided, "Let's dare to mainstream our son. Let's slowly work him into friendships and relationships at school. We believe Andy can make it."

And so, Andy was taking classes with the rest of his classmates. At 19 he was a freshman. Andy did graduate. On graduation day, something astonishing happened. It made Andy's mom and dad feel that their daring spirits to fulfill the dream was with it all when Andy's name was announced on graduation day, and 192 classmates jumped to their feet and gave a thundering applause. They knew that Andy had touched lives—Andy had meant something to his classmates. Andy was somebody because they dared to dream and took a risk. They dared to dream a God-sized dream and it changed not just them and Andy, but an entire school. I remember them talking after graduation about how they prayed and prayed before making the decision, but it also changed how that entire school district approached education for those with disabilities.

I have the privilege of serving on the School Accountability Committee at Durango high school and we had our first meeting of the year on Thursday. I served on that when my daughter was in high school. Now, I am a community member because they need to have

one of those on this committee and I enjoy keeping up with what's happening in our schools. I was especially touched by looking at the school perform numbers from last year to this year where it showed a tenfold improvement in the test scores of students with disabilities because that is a focus of our high school right now, to bring those that are down here in achievement up here because it affects the rest of the school. It takes risks and works to make shifts in education at any level, and it begins with a dream that we believe we can make a difference in the lives of all students and not just those who are high achievers.

Whenever I am around teachers or educators, I think of the words written by journalist and former White House correspondent Clark Mollenhoff. They were read by then-President, Ronald Reagan, to Guy Daud who was awarded teacher of the year in 1986.

SLIDE Friend, you are the molder of their dreams.

**You are the spark that sets aflame the poet's hand,
or lights the flame of a great singer's heart.**

SLIDE You are the guardian of a million dreams.

Your smile can heal or pierce a heart,

**SLIDE Your patient words, your touch, makes you the champion
of hope.**

**Fill their souls with dreams to make those dreams come
true.**

The last thing that I want to leave you with is that dreams are meant to be shared. Especially when it feels like the bottom has dropped out. If you really want to be a part of dreams that bring strength, then get involved in someone else's dream and see what happens. Virginia Satire recognized that people must share if they are to realize their dreams. She understood the importance of dreams and the need for each person to dream beyond their box of shattered

dreams which might be holding them. Virginia is a Christian social worker who got a group of people together who were on food and housing assistance. Many of them couldn't see out of their box of darkness and had lost the respect of others and didn't really respect themselves. When the 12 met for the first time she said, "Friends, tell me about your dreams."

SLIDE Dreams are meant to be shared

The first person reacted rather viciously. He said, "Dreams! We can't dream! Rats are eating my children's food and you're sitting here wasting our time talking about dreams!"

He was angry, but Virginia calmly said, "Why are the rats eating your children's food?"

"There's a hole in our screen and rats..."

Virginia interrupted and said, "Just a minute. Is there anybody here in this group of 12 who can fix a screen?"

A guy raised his hand and said, "You know I had a dream to be a handyman, but I dumped that dream. I can fix a screen though."

And so, Virginia reached in her pocket and gave a few dollars to the screen fixer. He fixed the screen and they got back together the next week. Then Virginia asked again, "Tell me about your dream."

A woman said, "When I was a young teenager, I got pregnant. My husband left. I've had several kids and never have been able to get off assistance. My dream is to be a teacher, but I can't go to school. I don't know what to do with my kids."

Virginia said, "Is there anyone here who can take care of children?"

One woman said, "I've had a dream of being a day-care mother and taking care of children during the day. I love children. I can take

care of her children while she goes to school if someone can fix a few things around the house...”

And in stepped who? The handyman of course! Within ten weeks every single one of the 12 was independent. You may say, “Well that would never happen again. That was just a unique group of people.” But it did. It happened repeatedly as people began to trust and share in the dreams and the dreamers.

Jesus put it this way in his most famous sermon in Luke 6.

BIBLE

³⁷ “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

GRAPHIC St Francis Quote

St. Francis of Assisi put it succinctly when he said, “It is in giving that we receive.” This is the ultimate truth when it comes to dreams and the strength they bring. When we give and share in someone else’s dream it can often lead to the fulfillment of God’s dream in our lives. Many of you have responded generously to the needs on the Navajo Nation and the school that we support there in the aftermath of the flooding. We also had a church in Denver where a friend of mine is the pastor who put together 50 flood buckets that we see in front of the sanctuary. These are worth about \$100 each because they have inside of them cleaning supplies on other things that families will need in their homes as they dig out from the mud and the water. They just arrived before worship on Saturday and we're going to pray over them together as a congregation but I invite you to come up and pray over

each of them sometime today. You might even write a note of encouragement on the top of one of the buckets. It's a way of us letting our brothers and sisters know down in New Mexico that we are loaning them some of our strength through prayer.

GRAPHIC **Picture of flood buckets up front** (we'll need to take this photo Saturday.

If we really want dreams that will bring us strength; if we've lost our dream, or our ability to dream, then we need to find someone who has a dream and share it with them. In doing so, we may discover God's dream for ourselves. If your dreams have been shattered, give them to God in prayer. Let your dreams be transferred; let your life be transformed; and let your dreams transcend you so that you might see God's kingdom. Then take the RISK to dream again, and SHARE in the dreams of others so that you might experience the power of the dream in mighty ways and become a part of God's kingdom.

Let's join together in our memory verse for this week.

BIBLE

³¹ **But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint.**

Let's pray...

SLIDE **Prayer**

September 26-27 Order

1. Countdown
2. Ryan welcomes people, inviting them to stand in body or spirit.
3. Song – “Praise”
4. Song – “Made for More”
5. Jeff welcomes and shares:
 - A. QR Code
 - B. Connect Card and Pet Prayers
 - C. Invites people to greet each other
6. Sermon Video Intro
7. Sermon
8. Med Moments
9. Offering (Native Hope)
10. Song – “Winds of Love”
11. Prayer and Lord’s Prayer
12. Care Ministers
13. The Bridge
14. Men’s Retreat
15. Closing Prayer