



Theme: God's Dreams

"Dreams to Move Us Forward"

Jeff Huber, October 3-4, 2026, at Summit Church, Durango

Weekly Memory Verse:

¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. – Romans 15:13

SLIDE Dreams to Move Us Forward

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**.

Today, we continue our sermon series on dreaming God's dreams. We started by talking about the importance of hope in dreaming, and how sometimes we need to borrow hope from God when we don't have any hope for the future. 19 of us from Summit were at a Leadership Conference in Kansas City at the United Methodist Church

of the Resurrection. We had a great time of learning and growing with wonderful workshops, speakers, and worship. Here's a photo of our group.

GRAPHIC **Summit Group at Resurrection**

GRAPHIC **Stained-Glass window**

I also want to share with you what they have in the front of their new Sanctuary, which is the largest stained-glass window in the world. It's stunning and I sat in the front row with a few of our folks and several times found myself almost in tears as we sang worship songs and saw the Biblical story from Creation on the far left to Christ in the middle inviting us to follow to the saints on the far right from John Wesley on the horse to Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks to St. Francis and Pope Francis, and of course lots of animals which tell us the story of our Christian faith.

I had the privilege of visiting this church shortly after it started as it moved from a funeral home to their first Sanctuary and building. This Sanctuary is phase three of that project, and they now reach more than 25,000 people on nine campuses each week. I had no idea this is where that church would end up as I visited it more than 30 years ago as part of a Doctorate of Ministry in Church Leadership. We visited three churches each year to learn and grow and I have returned to many of them over the years to learn best practices and dream God's dreams for churches I have served.

I was especially moved in a workshop by Lovett Weems, one of the grandfathers of Methodism today as he reminded us that hope is not based on what we think God will do, but what God has already done.

SLIDE **Hope is not based on what God will do, but what God has already done in the Biblical story.**

That's why we talked two weeks ago about borrowing hope from God and last week about borrowing strength from God. We believe that God is the one who initiates strength and hope. All we are asked to do is respond. We call this idea "prevenient grace" which is grace that goes before us. It's why I tell you that God made you to love you each week, because we forget God has been calling out to us since we were born.

SLIDE Prevenient Grace = "the grace that goes before"

I was thinking about this I looked at the stained-glass in worship because it tells the story of what God has done, and invites us to borrow that hope and strength so we might move forward in faith, following Jesus, being his presence in the world but loving God, loving others, and sharing the good news. Just to refresh our memory, we are defining a dream this way.

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

GRAPHIC Datsun 24Z Coupe

GRAPHIC Datsun 510 Station Wagon

I also shared with you two week ago that my dream car was this Datsun 240Z, but my ACTUAL car was this Datsun 510 wagon. While it was not my dream car, I do remember being thankful for that first car. How many of you drove here today in an automobile? Not even a hundred years ago, we would have come by foot or horseback, but thanks to Henry Ford's dream our lives are much more convenient. Can you think of something good that happens today that you would not even dream of happening as a child? Almost all the discoveries and inventions we take for granted today are the result of dreams.

GRAPHIC Grandpa Football Picture

My grandfather played for a state championship football team in high school his senior year at Fort Collins High School here in Colorado

where he was a Lambkin. Towards the end of the year, he hurt his knee and hobbled through the rest of the season because there was nothing they could do about it surgically. Towards the end of his life, he contemplated replacing that knee so he could walk better. All that in a span of 75 years. How many of you have new knees or hips? Could you have dreamed of that 50 years ago? We all thought the series the Bionic Man featuring rebuilt astronaut Steve Austin was a pipe dream, but now it doesn't look so far-fetched does it!?

GRAPHIC The Six-Million-Dollar Man

GRAPHIC The Bionic Woman

Many of you may know that Albert Einstein flunked most of his classes in high school, including science and math. When he was interviewed later in life and asked how that happened, he replied, ***"I spent little time on homework, and most of my time dreaming."*** Now please, all of you students out there, don't take this as permission to skip out on class work. Einstein's point was not that we should all forget about homework, but that behind every good scientist, there is a great dreamer.

In the Spring of 1988, I was working with college students at Iowa State University as a Campus Minister and we went to Washington D.C. for Spring Break to experience hunger and homelessness in our nation's capital. One of my stirring memories from that trip happened with Mark, a junior majoring in mathematics who was with us. Mark had this obsession with going to the Lincoln monument and listening to Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech on his portable stereo with headphones. In those days we used cassette tapes! On our last day, we worked in some sightseeing and Mark managed to sit at Abe's feet and hear Dr. King's words with the crowd thundering in the background.

GRAPHIC Dr. King

I will never forget that moment in the wee hours of a March Day,

imagining the throngs of people gathered...it sent chills down my spine! And an instant my whole being caught the energy of Dr. King's dream, and I was moved to tears. Where would we be today without that dream? Even though Dr. King was assassinated before he could see that dream fulfilled, and it's a dream we still need to work towards as a nation, it had the ability to move people forward. Today, I want to talk about we tap into the God inspired places within ourselves, so that our imagination can stir up dreams of hope for our future and move us forward as people seeking to be the presence of Jesus and leaning into God's Kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.

In pondering this question, let's take the word dream and pull it apart. Spelling D-R-E-A-M can help us come up with keys to unlocking our imagination in each letter so it might be easier to remember. The first letter is:

SLIDE DARING to focus on what could be.

It takes courage to dream, and even more daring to pursue God's dreams. I saw a movie several years ago, Excess Baggage, where one of the main characters said to his confused and depressed friend, *"the first step to realizing your dreams is to WAKE UP!"* How often do we receive dreams, only to dismiss them before they even have a chance. I think of the prairie chicken who found an abandoned eagle's egg while on a walk. The chicken had no idea what kind of an egg it was, but took it home anyway and sat on it until it hatched. The young bird who came from the shell had no idea of its origins; it just assumed it was a prairie chicken.

GRAPHIC Prairie Chicken

Now prairie chickens are really the lowliest of birds. They can't even fly and are relegated to eating garbage. But as the young eagle grew, she noticed other birds soaring to great heights above the clouds. When she asked his adopted parents why they could not fly, the other

prairie chickens laughed and said, “We are just prairie chickens, as are you, and we will never fly!” So, the young eagle was discouraged and gave up on her dreams and never attempted to spread her beautiful wings. If we are to unlock our dreams, we must dare to begin. We must take a risk to see what can be, not just what is.

Do any of you remember the first time you tried to walk? Have you ever seen a child try and learn to walk? What if they decided it was too scary to walk? You and I might still be crawling! Instead, we took a chance and tried to do it. This is the joy of youth, that we will try things that seem stupid to the rest of the world. But where would we be without those dreamers? I think of all the silly things I tried when I was a kid, from riding a bike to riding a motorcycle, both that I built with old parts because we couldn’t afford anything new. I even had a moped that really was a waste of money, but I tried it anyway.

I remember the first time I got up to preach because my best friend who was supposed to give the message on youth Sunday didn’t want to. I am pretty sure I just made stuff up and then Verma Berry told me after the service that I should be a pastor. I told her that was HER dream and it was a dumb one for me to even dream. No one would ever listen to me for 30 minutes straight! What did I have to offer? I must tell you that I have borrowed hope and strength from her words on many occasions when I felt inadequate or unprepared.

I am reminded of the people of the early church we read about in Acts 2. If you are not familiar with Acts, it’s the story of the early followers of Jesus having the audacity to spread the message of Jesus and try to be his presence in the world. It’s the fifth book of your New Testament and written by the same person who wrote Luke. The author of Luke/Acts gave us the most words in our New Testament as it shares the story of Jesus and then the early church he launched. As they gathered in Jerusalem, from many parts of the world, speaking many different languages, the Holy Spirit came upon them as they

experienced this powerful movement, people thought they were drunk. We then read what Peter, who is the best friend of Jesus, shares.

BIBLE

¹⁴ Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this.

¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶ No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

**¹⁷ ‘In the last days,’ God says,
‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.**

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

**Your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.**

**¹⁸ In those days I will pour out my Spirit
even on my servants—men and women alike—
and they will prophesy.**

Notice the key words, and **SHOUTED**. These words tell us that Peter had something important to say that might fly against the normal thoughts of people. What Peter was about to say was dangerous and maybe even a stretch in a world that would be hostile to these Jesus followers who were being asked to see the world differently. But that is what dreamers do; they can see what others do not. And these early followers of Christ were just like that. They saw a world, a kingdom, that was foreign to most. And they dared to proclaim that to the rest of the world.

A man once bought a small railroad that had been losing money for years since the automobile was invented. He got it at a real bargain, but those who sold it to him secretly laughed at what they called his poor judgement. He closed the railroad, sold the rails and equipment at

a good price, and found himself with several thousand acres of valuable real estate which he then sold to the federal government. You've probably seen the property; it's now known as I-70! What the former owners had seen as a losing railroad, one man saw as an opportunity. We must be willing to risk and dare, if we are to dream.

SLIDE Respect our dreams.

I firmly believe, as our scripture reminds us of this morning, that God sends dreams to each of us. Who are we to discount our dreams until we have prayed and sought out God's guidance on our dreams. The wildest and craziest dream may be the one from God which we are supposed to act upon! Listen to what OTHERS thought of those people in the early church.

BIBLE

[Peter continued] *“Indeed, these people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.”* –Acts 2: 15

One of my favorite films to watch in the fall as football season begins is Rudy? It’s not really a football movie. Rudy was a small, overachieving high school football player who had a dream of playing for Notre Dame. Not one college recruited him, especially not Notre Dame, which didn't faze him because he only wanted to go to Notre Dame anyway. Unfortunately, Rudy's grades were not good enough for admission as a student either, so Rudy worked his way through a Junior College.

Even after getting enrolled at Notre Dame and walking onto the football team, he was rejected by the coaching staff as being too small. But Rudy kept at it, and while he never did make the team officially, he did make the scout team, which basically means he got to play the opposing team in practice and get squashed every down. Because of his heart and grit and determined dream to play football for Notre Dame, Rudy gained the respect and admiration of his fellow players. On the

last game, in the last quarter of his senior season, Rudy still had not played an official down for Notre Dame. And as the seconds ticked away, the players began chanting Rudy, Rudy, Rudy...soon the fans joined in...and with 30 seconds left, the Notre Dame head coach called a time out...and put Rudy in the game! Rudy realized his dream because he respected it, and that respect spilled over to the rest of the team. That is the contagious nature of a good dream, and once it gets going it's hard to stop, as the Notre Dame coach discovered!

SLIDE Expect dreams to excite and energize the world.

The biggest mistake dreamers make is forgetting that great dreams start small and grow when others are allowed to catch the excitement of the dream. When I was in college, I met Millard Fuller who was friends with my campus pastors and the founder of Habitat for Humanity. He inspired me to sign up and volunteer to serve in what was then Zaire, and now is the Democratic Republic of Congo, or DRC, to lead their building project in the capital city of Kinshasa and put my three ear of French literature to work. That's another story about why I had three years of French when I only needed one. Let's just say it had to deal with a cute niece visiting our professor from France.

GRAPHIC Millard Fuller

But I digress, let me read from his book, *The Excitement is Building...(page 3)*. Millard had a dream, a very simple one really, that all of God's people should have a simple, decent place to live. Millard discovered his dream in 1976, after giving up a lucrative career as a lawyer and entrepreneur. He began Habitat with just a few houses in Georgia, which then expanded to Africa, and today Habitat has built homes for over 65 million people in thousands of cities all over the world. Millard's dream is contagious and has been adopted by thousands of people across the globe.

“The excitement IS building—and it’s building because people

have responded to this ‘crazy’ idea and have volunteered by the thousands to make it happen. So much has happened so quickly, all from one small dream.” –Millard Fuller, (page 6)

While I didn’t go to Africa because of a Civil War that erupted, I did hear God’s voice through Millard’s dream that I should be serving others and not just myself in a career in computer science. Instead, I followed a call to work with college students where we took trips on Spring Break like the one to Washington DC I told you about, to then working on the streets of Denver as a student in social work, then with middle school and high school students where we built ministry around serving others.

One of the things I saw in Habitat, and I have experienced in the church as you all have dreamed things like Native Hope DURING A PANDEMIC that serves our Navajo brothers and sisters in New Mexico, is that it is important to find others to share our dreams with, people who will support our dream, as well as be honest with us. We must allow our dreams to be caught, because the Spirit can take any good dream and spread it like a wildfire! Verse 16 of our text in Acts uses a word that screams respect.

BIBLE

NO, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: –Acts 2: 16

It’s easy to overlook this verse, but it’s so important because it tells us to stop and be expecting something important. It refers to the prophet Joel, that everyone in that first gathering of the church would have heard of and everyone knew was from God. It leads to this important invitation which is to remember that the best dreams are ones that come from God.

SLIDE Align our dream with God.

To really dream in ways that can move us forward, we must expect that our dreams will make the world a better place. It can be easy for dreams to turn into nightmares if we do not keep our focus and keep in alignment with God. We want to be dreamers, not schemers. Human history is full of bad dreams done in the NAME of God. Dreams God would never want his name attached to such as the Holocaust, the Crusades, the Oklahoma City bombing, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, just to name a few. When a dream becomes self-centered and for one person's good at the expense of another, then we are on the wrong track, going the wrong direction down a path of destruction.

There is an Native American folk tale about a great chief of a great nation who was on his death bed. The chief summoned his three sons and said, "I am dying and one of you must succeed me as the head of our people. I want each of you to climb the holy mountain and bring back something beautiful. The one whose gift is most outstanding will succeed me."

After several days, the sons returned. The first brought his father a flower which grew near the summit and was extremely rare and beautiful. The second son brought his father a stone which was colorful, smooth, and round, having been polished by rain and sandy winds. The third son's hand was empty.

He said, "Father, I have brought nothing back to show you. As I stood atop the holy mountain, I saw that on the other side was a beautiful land filled with green pastures and a crystal lake. And I have a vision of where our tribe could go for a better life. I was so overwhelmed by what I saw and by what I was thinking that I could not bring back anything."

And the father replied, "You shall be our tribe's new leader, for you have brought back the most precious thing of all - a dream for a better future."

If we expect the best, and remain rooted in the Creator of our dreams, then we can stay focused on the ultimate dream of the kingdom of God. As Peter quotes Joel in this text...

BIBLE

In the last days it will be, God declares. That I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. —Acts 2: 17

God will pour out his Spirit so that we, you and I will dream dreams. Not just our dreams, but God's dreams. But please don't think we will be perfect. God can make all things perfect, which is why the last thing we must do is...

SLIDE Make the most of our mistakes.

You know it's easy, when one dream does not work out, to give up and lose hope. Thomas Edison's assistant, after having tried over 200 times to make a light bulb, said in disgust, **"All this work, and we've learned nothing!"**

Edison's reply, **"Ah, but we have learned much. We now know of at least 200 elements which cannot be used to make a good light bulb!"**

Benjamin Franklin once said, **"It takes at least ten mistakes to come up with one good idea."**

Dreaming takes practice. In a way, this brings us back full circle to where we started. To dream God's dreams that move us forward, we must dare to make mistakes, ask God for guidance, then try again. Here are the words from Joel:

BIBLE

EVEN upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy and dream. —Acts 2:

EVEN those places where we might not expect it. EVEN in those places that we see as mistakes, God will work. Slaves were seen as the lowest on the societal totem pole, and God says that EVEN them (dare I say EVEN you and me and the mistakes we make!) ...God will take those dreams and do great things.

The one thing that is clear to me about dreaming is that it can be dangerous business. Dreaming invites the impossible into our lives. T.E. Lawrence in his book Leaders says, **“All dream; but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds awake to find it was all vanity; But the dreamers of day are dangerous, that they may act on their dreams with open eyes to make it possible.”**

Are we willing to be the dreamers of the day that moves forward the Kingdom of God both here in our community and beyond? I believe that we as people of faith known as Summit Church Durango must dream if we are to truly live. We must trust God's word that our sons and daughter, old and young alike will see visions and dream dreams!

GRAPHIC Walt and Alta Lunsford

I want to share a dream that was dreamed of by someone old and then someone young. When I arrived here in 2002, I was relatively young at 38 years old. I discovered a dream that was shared by a retired pastor in our congregation at the time, Walt Lunsford. I didn't ever get to meet Walt as he died just before I arrived, but I did get to meet Alta his wife and was honored to do her funeral. Towards the end of Walt's life, he needed dialysis, but at that time there was none in Durango, so he needed a ride to Farmington. A group of women who were called Walt's Angels formed to take turns driving him each week since Alta could not longer drive. One of those women was Rowean Crader whose family had ranched what is now three springs for more than a generation.

Each time Rowan drove Walt, he would say to her as they drove by Three Springs which was then called Grandview, he would say, “You know, we really need a church out here.” When our church did a large renovation here on this campus in 2005 to add the atrium, the infant center, the family room, up to date restrooms, and more space in the sanctuary, and making the entire building more handicap accessible, we also committed 10 percent of what we raised for a new campus in Grandview knowing that God was calling us to have ministry in that area. Just as some context, our church was down on 3rd Ave. before it was here on Florida Road. It was actually a very contentious argument about whether the church should move and some said no one would ever get to church “way out there” on Florida Road!

GRAPHIC Methodist Church on 3rd Ave

GRAPHIC First Church Building

GRAPHIC Fellowship Hall with volleyball

The truth is they were out of room in that location and so they built this sanctuary and few offices, gradually expanding it over time. The Fellowship Hall, what is now Basecamp, was built not just for our church but for the community which had no Recreation Center until 2001. People came here for indoor volleyball and basketball. This church has always looked for the needs and then tried to fill that void.

GRAPHIC Ron Heifeitz diagram

I was reminded of this diagram from Ron Heifeitz of the Harvard Business School at our leadership event. The idea is that this lower line is the way the world is. The line moving up and the to the right represents what COULD be. Our job as leaders is to fill the gap which takes dreams and planning and vision. For the church, the lower line is the broken world the way it is, and the upper line is the Kingdom of God. God doesn’t magically bring the Kingdom but invites us to fill the gap by things like Native Hope and Manna Soup Kitchen which was started by members of this church out of truck at Sneider park. It’s why

we give our Christmas and Easter offerings, our two largest of the year, to support ministry and mission that help this world look more like the Kingdom of God. It's why we pray...

SLIDE Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

That brings me back to Three Springs. As we worked to raise funds for the needed renovations at this church in 2005, we also talked about needing ministry in Three Springs because our church goes where the people are. In the middle of that campaign, which was called, "God's Plans, Our Hands," Rowean came to me and offered us 10 acres for ministry in Grandview. It took a few years until development got far enough along, but now we own that land and it is accessible with roads built around it and utilities stubbed in. We also have hired a company to help us determine needs in the Three Springs area so we can meet those needs and fill the gap.

I have always dreamed of a place where we bring back together the body, mind and spirit as those things were never meant to be separated. Maybe we can be a place where you can come to see a counselor, a massage therapist, a chiropractor, a parish nurse and be prayed for, learning Christian spiritual practices that we KNOW from research lead to healing. A place where you can engage your mind and think about faith questions of any kind. Maybe we have an annex of our Thrift Shop on 2nd Avenue that can have furniture, where you have a cup of coffee, a spiritual connection, and then buy the couch!

GRAPHIC Three Spring Team on land

The possibilities are endless, especially considering that there is no church planned in Three Springs currently where there will be a new elementary school, 500 unit apartment complex to our East, 194 single family homes they HOPE will be more affordable, a memory care center and senior living, many businesses and hundreds of homes and apartments already there.

GRAPHIC Three Springs Sign

I have been going out to that space regularly to pray the past year and now we'll have signs like this on the property so feel free to go out and spend some time dreaming what God might do. We do have a Three Springs Team actively working on dreaming this is them meeting with a possible architect team that works with churches in Colorado. What I know for sure is that God has placed Summit Church here on Aspen and we'll have another campus in Three Springs to help the Kingdom Come. We do plan to have a worship space so we will be one church with campuses here on Aspen and in Three Springs. We know we are out of room on the location most weekends so we need to create more space for those with spiritual questions and wondering to connect with others and begin that faith journey with the ONE who made us to love us.

I know that together we can

DARE to dream;

RESPECT our dreams;

EXPECT our dreams to energize and excite our community;

ALIGN our dreams with God; and

MAKE the most of our mistakes...dreaming with confidence that it is God who gives our dreams, God who will guide us in our dreaming, and God who will make God's dreams come true! I want to remind you that the story in Acts is about God giving his Holy Spirit so people might go to the entire world to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. One of the person's who was called was Paul, whose original dream was to wipe the Christian movement from the face of the earth. He then encounters Christ and has a new dream that he carries to places in modern day Turkey and Europe. He writes letters to those new churches, such as the one in Rome. I want to leave you with these powerful words...

BIBLE

¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁴ I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them. ¹⁵ Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by God's grace, ¹⁶ I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. ¹⁸ Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. ¹⁹ They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

²⁰ My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. ²¹ I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says,

**"Those who have never been told about him will see,
and those who have never heard of him will understand."**

This dream for Paul came from Christ who had a dream for us that night before he died. He told those who followed him that they would do EVEN MORE than him, and that begin with this gift of the Last Supper, a table that is meant to fill us and give us dreams.

October 3-4 Order

1. Countdown
2. Jenny welcomes people, inviting them to stand in body or spirit.
3. Song – “Battle Belongs”
4. Jeff welcomes and shares:
 - A. QR Code
 - B. Connect Card
 - C. Communion Instructions
 - D. Invites people to greet each other
5. Sermon Video Intro
6. Sermon
7. Communion
8. Song – “It Is Well”
9. Song – “Great are You Lord”
10. Prayer and Lord’s Prayer
11. Med Moments
12. Offering (Native Hope)
13. Care Ministers
14. The Bridge
15. Men’s Retreat
16. Closing Prayer