GETTING STARTED

What are common ways we find fulfillment, or things we turn to in order to find fulfillment?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

In what way did the analogy of the ping pong balls and water help you evaluate what is filling your life?

What does it mean for you to "trust God" as the source of hope?

How can we fall short of trusting God? How is the phrase trust God sometimes misused?

In Romans 15:13, how does trust come before being filled? Why does that make a difference?

What does it mean for you to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit? What verses inform you about what it means to be filled with Holy Spirit?

How is evidence of being filled with the Spirit connected with the growing content of our character (Galatians 5:20; Phil. 1:9-11)

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Romans 15:13]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

Why does it matter that God is the source of hope? (15:13)

With what does God want to fill us? (15:13)

What responsibility do we have in experience this filling? (15:13)

What precedes joy, peace and hope (15:13)

Who enables us to overflow with confident hope? (15:13)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Why would Paul pray that you and I would be filled with joy, peace and hope in the power of the Spirit?

In what way can you and I struggle with Paul's prayer and the realities of life? Why is that? Read Ephesians 5:18-19 - What is the significance between being drunk with wine and being filled with the Spirit? How are they similar and how are they different?

Read Galatians 5:16-26 -- How does Paul distinguish being filled with the Spirit and not being filled?

Read Philippians 1:0-11 - What does Paul mean by being filled with the fruit of your salvation? Why does he pray for your love to overflow?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in these passages? What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage? How can we pray for each other?