

More than We Can Imagine

Ephesians 3: 14-21

This past week, a group of about 30 children and 20 adults journeyed to Mars and beyond as part of a cooperative ministry between four Midway churches; Midway Christian Church being one of them. This is our second year being a part of this ministry and for the second year, it was easy to experience the presence of God in our midst as we celebrated Vacation Bible School.

Here's how it worked: Each church took a night. We provided dinner and the space for the kids to come together and learn about the power of God. They sang songs. They played games. They made crafts and learned stories from the bible. Our very own Elizabeth Smith, served as the science leader all week. She lead them in balloon races and showed them how light bends through cups of water. She also helped them make sand slime, film canister and alka seltzer rockets, and baking soda and vinegar volcanoes.

But instead of just talking about what fun we had this past week, I wanted to share with you a video, a video which shows just a little bit of what we all experienced.

(Show video)

Each night, there was a different bible story but our main verse for the week was the text from Ephesians, specifically, verse 20: Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

Just to give you a little background: Paul has written to the group at Ephesus, celebrating their mission as a community of faith. But they have heard about Paul's struggles as he has continued to spread the Word of God. They know that Paul is in prison and they are beginning to doubt. They are wondering...."If Paul, one of the greatest apostles is struggling on his journey, how in the world are they, ordinary people, going to remain faithful and experience God in their lives? How are they going to transform the world?"

In response to their wondering, in response to their fears and worries, Paul offers up this prayer. This prayer is that they will be strengthened in the faith. It is a prayer for them to remain rooted and grounded in God's love. Paul offers this prayer so that they may know that through God anything is possible.

Paul tells this group at Ephesus that the beauty of faith is that we are constantly reminded that God is God and we are not. It is not up to us to save the world. That's God's job. Our job, our calling is simply to be open to the power of God in our midst. God works through us, God works within us to bring about

healing and wholeness for all of God's people. As people of faith, our response is simply to have open hearts, open minds, and open spirits to the presence of God in our midst.

You see, Paul reminds the group that at our core is our identity as people of faith. We are created in the image of God and loved more than we will ever know. We are people connected to one another. We are people connected as a family. We are people who are connected to God in profound and life changing ways.

This is our center. This is what gives us strength for the journey ahead. This is what keeps us grounded and rooted in God's love.....this connection to God is the power at work in our lives and in our world.

And if they have any doubt to this, all they need to do think about the stories of their faith. There are story after story within our sacred text which tells us of the many times when God has surprised the people of God, bringing forth new life with all hope was lost. Daniel and the Lion's Den, Queen Esther and how she saved her people; The story of the Good Samaritan; Jesus healing the 10 lepers; even the walk to Emmaus when the two disciples encounter Jesus along the road but they don't know that it is him. It was not until they broke bread together as a community that they knew that they had experienced the power of God in their lives.

All these stories point to how anything is possible through our God. We just simply need to be open...to have open hearts, open minds, and open spirits, we just need to be open to the power of God in our midst because we know that God is at work in this world, God is at work in our lives, bringing about healing and wholeness for all of God's people. As people of God, we know that our greatest lesion in faith is this: anything is possible through God and it is always more than we could ever imagine. Amen.