

1 Ask a volunteer to read Romans 15:12, to understand the context of our passage.

⚙️ *What is the central claim Paul is making from the Old Testament evidence, in verses 9-12?*

♥️ *What comfort should this bring to someone who feels they are outside of the reach of God's plan?*

2 **IDENTIFY FALSE HOPE:** Can you identify a time in your life (past or present), when you have hoped in something other than God? How was your expectation met or in what way was it unmet?

✍️ *What was your response during this time and what does this reveal about your heart?*

✍️ *If hope is found in Jesus, why do most people continue to place their hope in other things?*

3 Ask a volunteer to read Romans 15:13. In your own words, explain what this verse means.

✍️ *How can hope be both a cause and an effect? How have you experienced this in your own life?*

✍️ *Discuss the following: "Because God always keeps His promises, we have a guaranteed future that awaits us. Therefore, we can endure trials with joy and peace. Our believing will keep us moving when we might otherwise become discouraged and quit." (Swindoll, Insights on Romans). Share a time of personal trial that you were able to face with joy and peace, by God's grace.*

