

Southern Adventist University  
**Knowledge Exchange**

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The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

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9-20-2021

## **Week of Prayer**

Joseph Khabbaz

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*“And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” (Romans 5:5)*

**God gave us the Holy Spirit to fill the gaps in our lives through His love.** In his book *The Brand Gap*, Marty Neumeier presents ways companies seek to protect their brands. He states, “Brands are the little gods of modern life, each ruling a different need, activity, mood, or situation. Yet you're in control. If your latest god falls from Olympus, you can switch to another one.” Billions of dollars are spent each year on brands promising to bridge life's gaps. But what do we do when these “little gods” break their promises and leave us feeling empty and disappointed?

Romans is a letter written to a church suffering from disappointment. Paul seeks to encourage the church by reminding them to remain hopeful as the Holy Spirit will fill their hearts with love. This passage is reminiscent of God's people thirsting in wilderness yet experiencing the miracle of water gushing out of a rock to fill them.<sup>[1]</sup> **Could it be that our disappointments can point us to God's miraculous provision?** Through sin a gap was created between heaven and earth, yet Jesus came to bridge the gap between us.

### **Reflect**

Are you experiencing a gap today? You can all experience gaps in different ways. Maybe it's through heartbreak or unfulfilled dreams. Maybe you grew up in church yet never experienced a personal relationship with God or maybe the Bible just seems to complicated and old. Paul reminds us that until God's love fills our hearts, there will always be a part of you that remains painfully empty – no matter how many “little gods” you buy!

### **Act**

The Week of Prayer title this week is THE GAP! [If you want to experience the God who fills our gaps, join us tonight at 8:00.](#) We will discover what it means for God to fill life's gaps so that we can experience fullness in Christ. Our guest speaker is Pr. David Asscherick, he has traveled the globe preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. You will be blessed by his powerful messages each night! **Due to the rain the meetings will be held in Collegedale Church.**

### **RESOURCES**

- Follow [@ministryandmissions](#) on Instagram for updates on events and programs as well as encouraging messages and [check out our website](#) for many new resources.
- If you may be feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.

<sup>[1]</sup> Everett F. Harrison and Donald A. Hagner, “Romans,” in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Romans–Galatians (Revised Edition)*, ed. Tremper Longman III & Garland, David E., vol. 11 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 90.