

A CERTAIN HOPE



IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Sermon Reflection Questions

"But We Were Gentle Among You..." (1st Thessalonians 2:1-8)

August 7, 2022

How has your heart felt covered by the concrete of cynicism, skepticism, fear, doubt, worry, etc? How has this impacted your relationships with others, the church, your ability to trust?

Why is it so hard to trust that "God is at work" in the world around us? What leads you to doubt this when you look at the world around you?

Why is it comforting to know that God works through our weakness as we seek to share the message of the gospel with those around us? Why is it important to remember that we are not coming empty-handed, but we are bringing Jesus and the Holy Spirit helps us?

Why is it so hard to welcome others into your life without feeling like you need to "straighten everything up" first? How would your life look different if you were able to stop trying to cover the mess up and just invite people in?

Respond to this quote by C.S. Lewis: *"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable."*