

Sunday April 19, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

Bible Study – 1 Peter 1:3-9 Indescribable & Glorious Joy

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs or groups of three, discuss: “Where are you seeing signs of new life this Easter season?”

1 Peter 1:3-9. Context. The “first” letter of Peter was probably not written by the apostle, but rather by one of his followers in the next generation who was steeped in Peter’s teachings – perhaps Silvanus, mentioned in 5:12. He likely wrote from Rome, where Peter’s presence had had great influence. The letter is “first” only because it is the longer of the two letters written over Peter’s name. (In the Bible, letters were generally arranged primarily according to length, not chronology.) This week’s reading touches on the suffering that has come to these new Christians on account of their new way of life, and the joy that comes from trusting in the God who raised Jesus from the dead.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 again

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- How have you experienced new birth (v.3)?
- What does it mean to you that you have an inheritance that is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven” (v. 4)? [Since salvation is a gift that we inherit, it is tied with our identity as children of God (more so than with the degree of our faith or obedience). We can have an assurance of God’s love and empowerment in spite of our weakness. Thus, we can live in the confidence of God’s love.]
- How does that inheritance influence how you live now?
- How might that help us to rejoice even when we suffer (v. 6)?
- What might it look like for you to “rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy” (v. 8)?
- How is salvation an outcome of our faith (v. 9)?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:
I ask God for....
I thank God for.....

After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer

Sending Forth (2 minutes). Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God, we rejoice for the salvation that is found in Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, for reconciliation with God and others, and for the inheritance that awaits us in glory. May the joy found in our relationship with you be evident in all we say and do. Amen. And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.