

Sunday May 17, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church
Bible Study – Psalm 66:8-20
Come and Hear

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs, share a story of time when you felt trapped or tested by your circumstances.

Group Dialogue (Approximately 30 minutes)

Psalm 66:8-20 Context. This week's psalm sings praises to God, especially for God's liberation of the people at the time of the Exodus. But as the psalmist acknowledges, God's ultimate liberation doesn't mean that the path to it will be a cake walk. Indeed, it seems that those whom God will save, God will first test. Yet in the end, God will bring life out of death. For this reason, this psalm has sometimes been entitled, "Psalm of the resurrection."

Read Psalm 66:8-20

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 Psalm 66:8-20 again

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

- Is the Psalmist using the singular (I, me) or the plural (we, us)? What difference might that make to how we read this passage? I.e.: Our faith is collective. It is not merely about what happens to us as individuals, but also the whole.
- How might both good and difficult life circumstances be a test of our faith?
- How do verses 9 and 12c (the third line of verse 12) help us to interpret verses 10-12b? [i.e: God is faithful. The tests we encounter in life are not so that God learns or grows in knowledge of us, but so that we grow in knowledge of God.]
- How does this portion of Psalm 66 tell the story of the Israelites? How is the story of your life, of your faith journey, similar and different?
- How can we live verse 16? How can our churches help members feel more equipped to share their testimonies?
- Where have you seen God at work in you and through you?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Faithful God, the depth of our faith is revealed through the good and the bad we encounter. In all circumstances, help us to turn to you, trust you, and then listen for you and praise you. May we see with the eyes of faith this week. **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.