

**Sunday June 7, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church
Trinity Sunday**

**Bible Study – Matthew 28:16-20
Go, Therefore**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs, tell a story of when you

Group Dialogue (Approximately 30 minutes)

Matthew 28:16-20 Context. In Matthew’s account of the resurrection, the risen Jesus appeared to the women and told them to tell his other disciples to meet him in Galilee. When they encounter him in Galilee, their reaction is one of reverence mixed with doubt. What follows is commonly known as the Great Commission: Jesus sends his followers to make disciples from among all the nations of the earth, baptizing and teaching them. Matthew doesn’t tell us much about what kind of baptism Jesus is talking about; he only gives us the three-fold formula of “Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” As for his teachings and sayings, they have been gathered together by Matthew into five collections, beginning with that “sermon” that Jesus preached on (another?) “mount” in Galilee.

Read Matthew 28:16-20

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 Matthew 28:16-20 again

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

- How many disciples went to Galilee? [Verse 16 notes that there were eleven.] Why might that be significant? [This Gospel, and the others, repeatedly and deliberately references twelve disciples (as a symbol of reconstituting the twelve tribes of Israel). Following Judas’s death, only eleven remain. At this point in the story, the fact that they are eleven and not twelve is a reminder and symbol that they are not whole.]
- Where do the eleven disciples meet the risen Christ? [Verse 16 notes it was on a mountain.] Why might that be important that Jesus meets them on a mountain top? [This is the fifth time in the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus is on a mountain and teaches or gives instructions. It is to remind the readers of Moses, who was the traditional author of the first five books of the Old Testament and who also met God on the mountain top. Jesus is presented as the new Moses, the instructor and deliverer of the people.]

- Why might it be significant that some of the disciples “worshipped” and some doubted (v. 17 God as they worship and serve God.)
- The risen Christ notes his authority and then gives a fourfold instruction: go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. As a group, take time to deliberate about the meanings of each word and how your church accomplishes each of these.
- How well does your church do at focusing on this “Great Commission” of Jesus to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach? What might be done differently?

Read Matthew 28:16-20 again

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:

God of all authority and who is ever-present, continue to empower us to be your disciples. Help us to trust that you are present with us in all circumstances. Empower us, as individuals and as a church, to be about your work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. **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.