

Sunday October 18, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

Bible Study – Exodus 33:12-23
“Known by Name”

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs or groups of three, have each participant answer the question, “Did you have a security blanket or favorite stuffed animal when you were young?”

Exodus 33:12-23 Context: Moses communed with God on the mountain for 40 days and nights while God prepared the tablets of stone containing the covenant with the Israelites. Imagine Moses’ surprise and dismay when he finally returned to the people, who in the meantime under Aaron’s leadership had crafted the image of the golden calf and worshipped it in place of God – breaking the first two commandments in one fell swoop. In response, Moses cast down the tablets of stone, literally shattering the covenant. Moses unleashed the “sons of Levi” to slay the worst of the offenders. God sent a plague upon them. God had had enough: God promised to send an angel with the people as they headed for the promised land, but God would not go with them. But then Moses intervened.

Read Exodus 33:12-23

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 Exodus 33:12-23 again

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

- Share a time when were felt the presence of God. Where were you? Who was there with you?
- What practices enable you to experience the presence God? [For example, prayer, reading Scripture, worship, silence, solitude, and so on.]
- Read the passage, again trying to place yourself in Moses’s shoes. How does it feel to hear God say that God knows your name (v.17)?
- How does assurance of God’s presence (Matthew 28:20) and God’s intimate knowledge of us enable us to press on during difficult times?

- Being assured of God's presence and trusting that God knows us intimately and still chooses to love us is the foundation of our story as Christians. Yet, many Christians are very reluctant to share their testimony or giving witness to what God has done in their lives. Take a few moments and allow participants to write out their testimonies. A simple outline for a testimony is to (a) explain life before Christ, (b) talk about how you encountered Christ, and (c) note the difference Christ has made in your life.

Read Exodus 33:12-23 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:

Ever-present God, we give you thanks for your abiding presence with us. Guide us to be more aware of opportunities to abide in your presence that we might be assured of status as beloved children of God. Give us the freedom and courage to live as the beloved children of God who are known and loved by you. **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.