

Sunday January 24, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Mark 1:14-20
“Follow Me”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs or groups of three, have each participant respond to the question, “How would you have responded to Jesus’ request to ‘Follow Me’?” (Fear; trepidation; asked others for help; joyfully joined; been paralyzed that you were asked; or something else.)

Mark 1:14-20 Context. This week’s reading gives Mark’s account of the beginning of Jesus’ preaching and the call of his first disciples, two pairs of brothers, Simon and Andrew, James and John. Like John the baptizer, Jesus preaches repentance but he also preached the good news of God’s reign. His first disciples were not rich, but they were not poor. Leaving their former lives behind represented a real reorganization of the material well-being of their families.

Read Mark 1:14-20

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 Mark 1:14-20 again

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

- Work as a group to define “disciple.”
- What does it mean to follow Jesus? How are disciples called to be followers?
- What role does surrender play in the life of a disciple? What role does self-denial play in discipleship?
- Do you make a distinction between being a Christian and being a disciple? [Unfortunately, many see themselves as Christians, but are hesitant to see themselves as disciples.] Why might a person be reluctant to claim the label disciple, but not Christian?
- What holds you back from being more of a follower of Jesus?

- Look back to the study from the last two weeks. How does baptism become the launching point of our discipleship journey? How is the Lord's Supper the nourishing meal of the discipleship journey? What might this say about the need to partake in the Lord's Supper consistently? [We can take Communion weekly (or even daily). While baptism is a non-repeatable act, we can and are encouraged to participate in "Remembering Your Baptism" services.]

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 death and Resurrection, you continue to call us to self-denial and to live in the light of the Resurrection. Give us the eyes to see where you are calling us to dream new dreams, surrender our goals for yours, and bless others instead of thinking only of being blessed. Empower us to follow you wherever you call us. **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.