

Sunday April 18, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Luke 24:36b-48
“Touch and See”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, have participants share a time they witnessed an event that was unforgettable (an accident, the birth of a child, a baptism, etc.).

Context Luke 24:36b-48: Luke tells the story that after Jesus was raised from the dead, he appeared to two disciples who were traveling on the road from Jerusalem to the nearby village of Emmaus, who only came to recognize him much later “in the breaking of the bread.” The two rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples of their experience. Just as they did, Jesus appeared to them all. That is where this week’s reading begins. The other disciples doubted that it was really Jesus until he ate a piece of fish. Then he “opened their minds to understand the scriptures” that foretold his death and resurrection, and their mission to proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins. For Jesus, the scriptures included the “law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms,” the three divisions of the Hebrew Bible that we know even today (Torah, Prophets, Writings; the “writings” include the psalms along with other texts).

Read Luke 24:36b-48

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 Luke 24:36b-48 again.

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

- What is the state of the disciples Jesus encounters in this passage? Why do you think each of the Gospel writers emphasized this?
- How does this make the disciples more relatable?
- If you were one of the disciples, how would you have heard Jesus’ command to “Touch me and see” or “Grab hold and see”? Would this have brought you assurance, strengthened your belief, or guilt by highlighting your previous doubts?
- How is Luke helping the readers understand the reality of Jesus’ incarnational presence?

- How does our faith that is grounded in reality inspire us toward acts of mercy and compassion to our neighbors and around the world?

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 glory and God among us, help us to “grab hold and see” the vision of abundant life you offer us now, the belief that this world is not the end, that our relationship with the Triune God will extend past the grave into all eternity, the hope you give us to encounter your abiding presence of peace. We look forward to experiencing the abundance, justice, and righteousness of your coming realm. **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.