

**Sunday, May 9, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

**Bible Study – John 15:9-17  
“No Greater Love”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, have participants talk about an act of love someone else has displayed to them.

**Context John 15:9-17.** This week’s reading follows on last week’s where, at his last supper with his disciples, Jesus speaks of himself as the true vine and his disciples as the fruitful branches which spring from the vine. Here he tells the disciples that they are no longer servants but friends, since now they know Jesus’ will for them: that they love one another, as Jesus has loved them. He reminds them again that he loves them so much that he will lay down his life for them.

**Read John 15:9-17**

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 John 15:9-17 again.**

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

- Work as a group (or in groups of two or three) to write a one-sentence definition of love. [Here’s mine – Love is compassionate, sacrificial, tangible, and committed.]
- What might it mean for you that Jesus commanded us to “love one another as I have loved you” (v. 12)?
- What might it mean for your church that Jesus commanded the church to “love one another” (v. 17)?
- Whom do you find it difficult to love?
- In American society, it is typical to think of limited resources or scarcity. Contrary to this, how is love compounding? (That is to say, how does showing love often have multiplying effect?)

**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:

Loving God, you have not commanded what you have not expressed. In fact, love is at the core of your nature. We know that as we grow in relationship with you, we cannot help but have love increased in our lives. Lord, help us not merely to have loving feelings or emotions, but to find tangible ways to express love to those nearest us 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.