

**Sunday, August 1, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

**Bible Study – Ephesians 4:1-16  
“A Life Worthy”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, have participants talk about a person they knew who lived a worthy life (however they define “worthy”).

**Read Ephesians 4:1-16**

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 Ephesians 4:1-16 again.**

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

- What have you learned in the last year and a half about the importance of physically gathering as a community of faith for corporate worship? Have you gained more appreciation for this opportunity of being physically gathered? Do you see it as more of a need than prior to quarantining?
- How might digital technologies, such as video conferencing platforms, be used for the most benefit to supplement our in-person gatherings?
- In verse 1, Paul uses the word “call” twice. As we explored in last week’s passage, we are called to live life rooted and grounded in love. This calling of God is not such a narrow and specific path that we can miss it or mess it up. It is the wide calling of living a life worthy of the gospel in various forms and ways. How do verses 2 and 3 reveal what a worthy life that is called into love look like?
- Which of the gifts in verse 11 do you think is most fitting for you?
- Our culture often speaks of self-purpose or self-fulfillment. What is the purpose of these gifts (hint: verse 12)?
- What might it look like for you to lead a life worthy of the gospel?

**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:

Covenant making and Covenant keeping God, we give you thanks that we are not on this journey alone. For you have demonstrated the way through Jesus Christ and are continually present with us, empowering us as your gifted servants for mission and ministry. Give us the courage to walk, trusting in your grace that we might live a life worthy to be called children of the Most High God. **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.