

**Sunday, August 8, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

**Bible Study – Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
“Speaking Truth”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, have participants talk about a time when someone was willing to share a hard or difficult truth with them. From whom did this come? How did participants receive these truths?

**Ephesians 4:25-5:2. Context.** In this week’s reading, the author continues the theme of the nature of our relationships with one another in the body of Christ. Continuing his notion of “speaking the truth in love,” he focuses on what we say to one another and how we say it as an essential mark of Christian community. He ends by exhorting his readers to imitate God by loving and forgiving one another.

**Read Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

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 4:25-5:2 again.**

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

- In the age of information, misinformation, and disinformation, what might Paul be advising us today as those who put away falsehoods (v. 25)?
- How easy or hard is it for you to share a difficult or hard truth to someone else? Why is that the case for you?
- Of the admonitions that Paul gives in verses 26-32, which do you find to be the hardest? Why is that the case for you?
- How might all of these contribute to a community of believers that imitates God?
- How might the church be thought of differently by the community around the church if we were intentional about having the kind of community with attributes described in this passage?
- What might it look like for you to live more consciously of being an imitator of God?

### **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:

Almighty God, you call us to a seemingly impossible way of life – to be imitators of you. As imperfectly as we might do so, empower us as individuals and as congregations toward embodying the beautiful community you call us to be so that others might be attracted by your love. **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.