

Sunday, October 3, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Job 1:1, 2:1-10
“To and Fro on the Earth”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) In groups of two or three, have participants share their vision of the “good life.”

Job 1:1, 2:1-10. Context. The story of Job is a story of long-suffering (especially in the opening chapters), but it quickly becomes a story of Job's ceaseless demand that God acknowledge Job's righteousness and innocent suffering. He goes so far as to accuse God of treating him unjustly. This week's reading is the "set-up" for the story that takes place in the heavenly court: the accuser (read D.A.) named Satan (Hebrew for “tempter” or “tester”), has challenged God with the question: "Does Job love God just for God's sake, and not for the blessings that he enjoys?" So God tests Job with all manner of calamity: loss of wealth, loss of family, and finally, loss of his own health.

Read Job 1:1, 2:1-10

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 Job 1:1, 2:1-10 again.

(Feel free to read all of chapter one, if time permits.)

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

- Draw or color an image that represents being disoriented. Or using cell phones, tablets, or other devices find images that represent disorientation and share your images with the group. Or talk about times when you felt disoriented.
- How was Job living the “good life”?
- How would you have reacted to Job's trials?
 - Become an atheist
 - Pray without ceasing
 - Blame others
 - Rejoice in all circumstances
 - Curse God and ask for death
 - Other

- What does this story suggest about God’s power that “the Satan” can act only on the permission of God (1:12, 2:6)?
- What is at stake for God in his challenge with the Satan?
- Which question do you relate with the most and why?
- If God is all-powerful, why do people suffer?
- If God is all loving, why do evil, tragedy, and suffering exist?
- Why does God seem so absent and quiet in the face of so much pain?
- Why do the wicked seem to prosper and the righteous suffer?
- Where do you turn when you are disoriented?
 - Friends
 - Family
 - God
 - Bad habits
 - Other

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, who is beyond our comprehension, forgive our temptations to think we can fully understand your ways or that you are unapproachable. We trust that Scripture teaches us that are the covenant-maker, relationship-seeker God who desires a relationship with us and that we live in abundance. Even when we fail to see it, help us to trust even more deeply in 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.