

**Sunday, Sept 4, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Bible Study – Luke 14:25-33

“Counting the Cost”

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes)

In pairs or groups of three, discuss the following: “Describe a hard choice you had recently.”

Luke 14:25-33 Context. This week’s reading returns to the theme of discipleship. Jesus wants his followers to understand fully just where their journey will end up – on the cross in Jerusalem. Are they prepared to pay the price? Luke records two examples not found in the other three Gospels, the builder and the king, to make his point.

Read Luke 14:25-33

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 14:25-33 again

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

- Do you find Jesus’ words in verse 26 surprising? (Hint: Remember the fifth commandment.) Why or why not?
- What does Jesus’ analogy about building a tower have to do with discipleship (verses 27-28)?
- What do we learn about what needs to be sacrificed to be a disciple (or apprentice) to Jesus from this passage (v. 33)?
- How are sacrifice and generosity essential characteristics of the life of discipleship? How does Jesus’ message about the cost of discipleship connect with how disciples approach profit?
- What might we learn from this passage about how we relate to others? Friends? Family?
- What do you continue to struggle with from this passage?

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). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, end by praying the following or a similar prayer:

God, who lifts up the humble, we confess that we have contributed to and enabled systems that have harmed the earth and others made in your image. Give us guidance to see how we might be part of your mission of the redemption of the world. Give us the hands of compassion to extend your love and grace. **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.