

# **WALK DUSTY**

**As we journey through Lent let us remember that it is a long and dusty road. It is on this journey that we reflect on those who have gone before and those who will come after. We identify with the hurt and the pain. We live in the messiness that comes with the often dirty road that we must travel. Let us also remember that it is this dust we call life that shapes and forms us into resurrection people. Just as we walk wet in recognition of our baptism and the promise that it holds we encourage you this year to Walk Dusty. Remember that in the brokenness, we are healed. While the journey is long and tiresome, resurrection promises are greater. In our dusty walk we claim the promise of new sandals and clean garments. As we walk dusty we remember that we have come from dust and to dust we shall return.**

**WEEK TWO – WALK TOGETHER**

*We identify with the hurt and the pain. We live in the messiness that comes with the often dirty road that we travel.*

## Small Group Bible Study Time:

### CHECK IN:

Joy, Junk, and Jesus (where you have seen God at work this week)

### SHARE:

- When have you felt alone?
- How do you deal with the feeling of being alone?
- When have you had to do something you didn't want to do?

### READ: Matthew 26:36-46 (NRSV-CE)

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' [37] He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. [38] Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' [39] And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' [40] Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? [41] Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' [42] Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' [43] Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. [44] So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. [45] Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. [46] Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

### TEACHING

### SHARE:

-Jesus brought his disciples with him to Gethsemane because he was beginning to understand what God was asking of him, and didn't want to be alone. Who are the people you surround yourself with in your times of trouble?

-When have you walked with someone through a tough experience?

-How can we support others when we don't know how to, or when we don't fully know what they are going through?

**ACTIVITY:** *Lectio Divina (Optional if there is time)*

Read the following verses 3 times and pause between each reading for a time of reflection. It may help to have different people read it aloud each time. The first time you read it, listen for a phrase that sticks out to you. The second time listen for a word that sticks out to you. The last time, listen for what God is asking you to do in the passage. Share your thoughts at the end if you feel comfortable doing so.

**READ:**

Matthew 5:43-48 (NRSV-CE)

[Jesus said,] 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. [46] For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? [47] And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? [48] Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**SHARE:**

-Is it easier to forgive a close friend or someone you don't really know?

-How can forgiveness help us live in the dustiness of our lives?

**BONUS SECTION**

*This section may be used if there is enough time, or can be read and reflected on individually at another time. If you choose not to cover this section in small group time, finish with the closing prayer and blessing at the bottom.*

## **MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP    Live among God's faithful people**

### **READ:**

Philippians 1:3-11 (NRSV-CE)

I thank my God every time I remember you, [4] constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, [5] because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. [6] I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. [7] It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. [8] For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. [9] And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight [10] to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, [11] having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

John 20:19-23 (NRSV-CE)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' [20] After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [21] Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' [22] When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. [23] If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

### **REFLECT:**

Jesus was able to resist temptations and choose God's way. Sometimes we are not as strong, choosing paths which are not healthy or of God. It is not easy. But God gives the gift of community to teach us, accompany us, and encourage us. This community isn't

limited to a select few, but it is all of God's people. And together as God's people, we have the opportunity and privilege to do some of God's work in the world today.

**SHARE:**

- What does it mean for you to live among God's faithful people?
- How can we live among all of God's people, not just those like us or like-minded?
- What has this looked like during the pandemic and what might this look like going forward?

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING:**

God, we identify with the hurt and the pain. We live in the dustiness and messiness that comes with the often dirty road that we travel. Please be with us as we wrestle with your will for us. Amen!

Share this blessing with one another.

May you know the God of all creation is with you always  
and surrounds you in love.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.