

# **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 FIVE – WALK IN GRACE**

*As we walk dusty we remember that we have come from dust  
and to dust we shall return.*

## Small Group Bible Study Time:

### CHECK IN:

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

### SHARE:

- When was a time you tried to earn something?
- What is your definition of grace?

### READ: Matthew 16:24-28 (NRSV-CE)

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. [25] For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. [26] For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? [27] 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. [28] Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

### TEACHING

### SHARE:

- Jesus asks the disciples to deny themselves and follow him. When are times that you have set aside your own agenda to put others first?
- When is it difficult to put others first?
- When have you put your faith first?
- When are times you find it difficult to put your faith first?

### 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:**

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NRSV-CE)

You were dead through the trespasses and sins [2] in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. [3] All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. [4] But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us [5] even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— [6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— [9] not the result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**SHARE:**

- What does it mean to love unconditionally?
- Who do you love unconditionally?
- Who loves you unconditionally?

**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**

**Serve all people, following the example of Jesus**

**READ:**

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (NRSV-CE)

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. [26] Be angry but

do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, [27] and do not make room for the devil. [28] Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. [29] Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. [30] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. [31] Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, [32] and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. [5:1] Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, [2] and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 15:12-17 (NRSV-CE)

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command you. [15] I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. [16] You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. [17] I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**REFLECT:**

Throughout his life, Jesus served. He was a servant leader, one who was willing to get down on his knees and wash the feet of the disciples. As Christ's hands and feet in the world today, we are called to do likewise.

During this pandemic time the way we serve has changed. The needs of the world too perhaps have changed. Needs for health care access and vaccines. Need for meaningful and gainful employment. Needs for food and shelter. The needs are as real now as they have ever

been, and God's people continue to respond to them and serve. Though perhaps some of the service looks a little different, for example, our mobile food pantry pivoted to a drive-through model of distribution. But still, God's people continue to respond today to our neighbor's needs because that's exactly what Christ calls us to do.

**SHARE:**

- What does it mean for you to serve following the example of Jesus?
- How might Jesus' act of washing the disciples' feet be an example for us today of serving our neighbors in our daily lives?
- In what ways might we be "imitators of God" through how we serve and show love, grace, and compassion?
- How do you sense that God may be calling you to serve?

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING:**

As we walk dusty we remember that we have come from dust and to dust we shall return. Help us to remember we were created out of love and it is through this love that we come to know You. Grant us the wisdom and courage to reflect your grace to those we encounter. 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.