

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 FOUR – WALK WET

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.

Small Group Bible Study Time:

CHECK IN:

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

SHARE:

- What is the best gift you have ever given?
- What is the best gift you have ever received?

READ: Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV-CE)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. [17] When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. [18] And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

TEACHING

SHARE:

- Why do you think some of the disciples still doubted Jesus?
- What does it mean to 'make disciples of all nations'?

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:

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NRSV-CE)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, [2] looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

SHARE:

- How can we live out our lives in a way that reflects God's love for us?
- What does it mean to 'make disciples of all nations'?

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

Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed

READ:

Romans 10:13-17 (NRSV-CE)

For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

[14] But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? [15] And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' [16] But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our message?' [17] So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV-CE)

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therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

REFLECT:

Jesus did not die to keep it a secret. His death and resurrection are meant to be the good news proclaimed from the housetops. The Apostle Paul, for example, found courage to boldly proclaim Christ—despite imprisonment and threats of death. He even discovered how God used the negative experiences of his life to proclaim Christ.

How could we not share this Good News of all that God has done, continues to do, and promises to do for us? It's a central stewardship and discipleship question. It's one with joy and gratitude at its core. Though the pandemic has certainly changed some ways we go about answering this call, it hasn't changed the call at all. We are all messengers entrusted with the opportunity to proclaim hope, healing, the truth about God's love and abundance, and be bearers of grace for the world.

SHARE:

- What does it mean for you to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed?
- How have you shared in this during this pandemic time (perhaps through sharing the Good News via your online or social media presence)?
- How do you feel called to proclaim the good news now, and in what ways may God be calling you to do this going forward?

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING:

May we know that while the journey is long and tiresome, resurrection promises are greater. In our dusty walk we claim your promise of new sandals and clean garments. Help us to look forward and continue to share your word and love. 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.