

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Planting Hope: Foundations

January 8 & 9, 2022

We are a congregation that believes that God has called us to go “OUT...for the World?” We believe that God is at work, and that we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to reflect God’s restoring and redeeming work in practical ways. To use a metaphor of Jesus, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” Our work in the world is a powerful part of our witness to the end of the earth.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 1:3-8

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

It's foundational that the community of faith gathers in face-to-face meetings. Gathering for worship, investment in bible studies and small group conversations, serving the wider community, practicing generosity are foundational practices that back a couple of thousand years. Also, understanding the character of the kingdom of God is essential for any faith community. What the kingdom of God looks like and how the Spirit brings the kingdom into focus in and through the local community of faith is foundational. Finally, sharing meals together, whether that's celebrating communion here or providing food for the community beyond our sanctuary, is always at the heart of what we do. These are just some of the foundational practices that the church has committed to over the centuries.

But it's really in the last part of the passage where we understand our mission and continue to build a foundation for going forward. The disciples asked Jesus about the kingdom and if Jesus was going to make it happen all at once at that moment. Jesus responds, paraphrasing: "Nope, you're going to do that." And then Jesus went on to lay the foundation for how that was going to happen, starting with the good news: "You won't do that alone. The Spirit will come upon you," Jesus said. They would not be alone. The Holy Spirit would equip and empower them for everything they would do. This reminds us of the good news that God never calls us to do something without equipping us actually to do it. Disciples are never alone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does “OUT...for the world” mean to you?
- How does this passage lay the foundation for our work in the world?
- The disciples were used to Jesus doing the “work;” how do you think they responded to this new call?
- How can we, as a community of faith, lean into this calling to be a witness to those around us?

APPLICATION: This week, spend some time in prayer thanking God for equipping us with the Holy Spirit. Then, ask the Spirit to be your guide, as you consider what it looks like to be a witness in our world.