

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



In Our Backyard

January 15 & 16, 2022

Can you imagine how different our neighborhoods, schools, offices and apartment buildings would be if every follower of Jesus responded to his call to bear witness to his love and grace in every relational encounter? Hope, joy and healing would spread faster than Covid! And that's exactly what Jesus had in mind when he said, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem."

SCRIPTURE TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 24:19-22

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

If you fell on hard times back in the 7th century BC, you walked a thin line between survival and death. And if you were a foreigner, an orphan or a widow your chances of survival were slim. But God, who cares about the well-being of all people, commanded the Israelites to leave enough unharvested grapes in their vineyards, olives in their groves and grain in their fields so that the hungry could glean enough to survive. That is an ancient social security system, and it's a reflection of God's heart for all people in need.

One of the things we most love about this community of faith is that we are people who reflect that heart of God to our "parish", to people in need within our sphere of influence. And while we do that in many ways, our Mission Outpost is perhaps the clearest and certainly the most visible way in which we care for people's physical needs. Today, we glean unpurchased food from local markets, keep it out of landfill, and make it available to those in need. We glean unwanted clothing from the closets and drawers of people and make it available to children in need of school clothes or someone who needs to dress up for a job interview. We glean the unused hours of generous dentists and dental hygienists to care for the dental needs of those who can't afford it. We glean all sorts of resources that are available but perhaps unknown and make sure that those in need can access them. And all the while we aren't just caring for people's physical needs; we are addressing their spiritual needs through prayer, a hug and a word of hope and encouragement.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when your neighbor cared for you. Or when you cared for a neighbor. How was that?
- How does this passage translate into our world today?
- In what ways have you seen this happening at Prince of Peace and beyond?
- How can we, as a community of faith, lean into this calling to care for the needs of those around us?

APPLICATION: This week, spend some time in prayer and consider what is your parish? Where is God calling you to take care of others? How can we embrace that call together through the Mission Outpost and beyond?