

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Peace

April 2 & 3, 2022

The peace that Jesus promises isn't about what's happening outside of us; it's about what's happening inside of us. It isn't a matter of external circumstances; it's a matter of connection – connection with God through the Holy Spirit and with the community of disciples in whom the Spirit dwells.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 14:27-29

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Jesus and his disciples had been together for 3 years. The disciples had given up everything to follow Jesus, and despite what Jesus had taught them to the contrary, the disciples still believed that Jesus would conquer their Roman oppressor and usher in a new Kingdom in which Jesus would be the new ruler and the disciples would be his cabinet. But as they gathered together in a rented, upper room in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover meal, Jesus told them in no uncertain terms that he was going away. He was leaving them. And as you can imagine this news confused the disciples and troubled them deeply. In response to their confusion and fear, Jesus promises to leave them with His peace.

At the very beginning of John 14 Jesus says to the disciples, ***“Don’t let your hearts be troubled...there’s lots of room in my Father’s house and I’m going to prepare a place for you so that one day we will be together, forever.”*** Those are words we often read at funerals. There’s a comfort in knowing that ultimately, we are going to dwell in God’s presence forever. But what about today? And tomorrow? How will we, and the disciples, live untroubled and unafraid between now and the day we die? That’s really the question that Jesus is answering in today’s scripture reading.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time in your life when peace was hard to find. Then, share about a time that you felt a deep sense of peace. What circumstances were similar in your stories? What was different?
- How have you experienced peace through connection with God and/or through connection to others in whom the Spirit dwells?
- How does John 16:33 and Isaiah 26:3-4 deepen your understanding of peace through connection?

APPLICATION: This week, whenever peace is hard to find, take a deep breath and remember: God dwells with me and I dwell with God.