

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Glorious Day

*April 16 & 17, 2022*

So often we want to hide our scars, cover them up so no one sees them as if they make us somehow less valuable, less lovable. But Easter proclaims that it is in the scarred places of our lives that Jesus meets us with love and grace. Jesus knows exactly what it feels like to be wounded and betrayed. And Jesus isn't just present in those scarred places of our lives; he also brings the power of healing and new life to those places.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 20:19-29

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

According to the Gospels Jesus had been bodily resurrected, but he must not have looked exactly as he had before because his friends didn't immediately recognize him. Mary thought he was the graveyard gardener until he called her by name. The disciples on the Emmaus Road thought him a perfect stranger until they broke bread together. And in today's Scripture reading they recognize him by his hands. And not just his hands, but the wounds from his crucifixion.

Jesus is raised with the wounds of crucifixion in his hands, feet and side and when the disciples struggle to recognize Jesus, to dare to believe that it is him, Jesus points them to his wounds. Which raises the question...what's the significance of those scars?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share what your ideal "resurrected body" would look like. How would it be similar to the body you have now? How would it be different?
- Do you have physical scars? Share the stories behind them.
- What story does Jesus' scars tell YOU about Jesus?
- Not all scars are physical. How has Jesus met you with love, grace, and healing in a time and/or place where you suffered from a scarred mind or heart?
- Read John 20:1-18, which immediately proceeds this week's scripture text. What is your favorite part of the Easter story as told in John's gospel? How do the events recorded in John 20 impact your life today?

**APPLICATION:** Find some quiet time this week to reflect on this Good News: "God meets us in the wounded places of our own lives. Our brokenness doesn't separate us from God but merely opens us to God's healing love and grace."