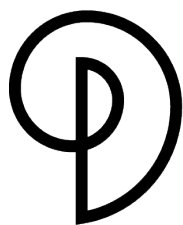


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Arise: Hardship

May 28 & 29, 2022

It's Spring, and that means it's track and field season. From sea to shining sea, athletes are running, jumping, throwing, and trying to clear hurdles. But, does dealing with hardships in life ever feel like just another attempt to clear a hurdle? We're exploring how to harness the power of resurrection in our lives so that whatever the hardship, we can keep rising up.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Hurdles are everywhere. Life is not a piece of cake. And that, my friends, has always been the case.

In 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, we find an account of the challenges and hurdles faced by the Apostle Paul. He was no stranger to hardship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a hurdle or challenge you have faced this year. How about this week? Today?
- Read Deuteronomy 31:6 and Isaiah 40:28-31. How do these verses give you hope in times of hardship? Do you have any other favorite scripture passages to reflect on when facing challenging times? How have these passages inspired you or given you peace?
- A paraphrase of the 2 Corinthians 6 scripture ends this way: *We've learned that God doesn't give us shortcuts around hardships but strengthens us through them.* How has this been true in your life?
- Pastor Paul shared about three practical responses to hardship that can help us rise up: harnessing the power of learning, harnessing the power of pause, and harnessing the power of connections. How have you plugged into these power sources in your life? Do you have any other practical responses to hardship that have been helpful for you?

APPLICATION: Spend some quiet time reflecting on past hurdles that God has faithfully seen you through. Next, bring to mind a current challenge you are facing. Listen for God's promise: *I'll be with you through this, too.* Close your quiet time by reading Lamentations 3:22-23.