

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## **Alive: Spirit of God: Loving Neighbor**

*June 25 & 26, 2022*

It all begins with God's love for us. It always begins with God's love for us. But that isn't where love ends. The love that the New Testament describes is always bigger than "me and sweet Jesus." The kind of love that Jesus calls us to, the kind of love that Scripture proclaims always includes love for our neighbor. Always.

## **SCRIPTURE TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8A, 13**

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### **BACKGROUND INFO**

Most of us have heard Paul's beautiful words describing love in the context of a wedding ceremony. And that's perfectly appropriate, but it can lead us to think that what Paul is describing is primarily how we are supposed to love one another. But that isn't so. Paul is primarily describing how God loves us.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What are some "pet peeves" you have that makes it hard for you to like some people?
- In John 13:35 Jesus says, "They'll know you are my disciples by your love." Share a story about a time you were able to easily identify a Christian or group of Christians by how they loved. Do you have a story to share about a time a Christian or group of Christians fell short of displaying God's perfect love? How about you? When have you loved well and failed to love well?
- Re-read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13. Are there any qualities you would add to Paul's definition of love?
- What scripture passages have you heard at weddings? Why do you think those passages are chosen for wedding celebrations? (If you need some ideas, here are the top 10 according to Google: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Romans 12:10, Ephesians 5:22-33, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Genesis 2:18-24, Song of Songs 8:6-7, Colossians 3:14-17, Ephesians 4:2-3, John 15:12, 1 Peter 4:8)
- Have you ever experienced the love of God in such a healing and compelling way that it birthed in you a deeper love for others? If so, share about that experience.

**APPLICATION:** In Matthew 5:44, Jesus commands us to pray for our enemies. "Enemy" is a strong word, but everybody has people they struggle to love. This week, purposefully and consistently ask God to bless them and to fill your heart with genuine love for them. You might just be surprised at what fruit begins to grow on the branches of your heart.