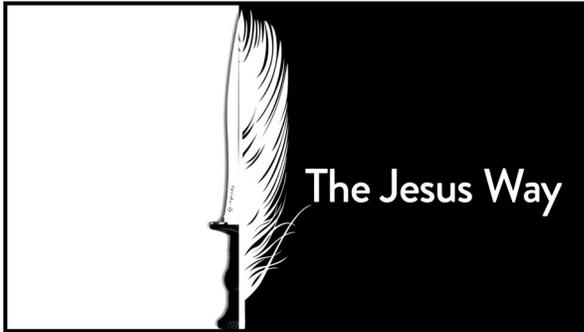


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE  
OF PEACE  
Called to Connect



## The Jesus Way | Judgment

July 20 & 21, 2024

Who gets to be the judge? Who gets to decide things, especially when we run into specific and targeted affliction? Paul reminds us that justice is up to God. This frees us from the need for revenge that will consume us from the inside.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-7

Read the scripture text together as a group.

#### BACKGROUND INFO

The Thessalonians and other early churches experience horrendous persecution, but Paul encourages them not to take matters into their own hands. Paul reminds them that justice is up to God. Judgment is God's work, not ours. In *The Jesus Way*, we are to treat and respond to others - and ourselves - with loving grace instead of judgment.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you been subjected to "Hellfire and Brimstone" preaching someplace in your spiritual journey? If so, share about how that impacted your faith and your relationship to God. Is there any other place in your life where someone has used fear to literally "scare the hell" out of you? Share about that experience.
- ***In The Jesus Way of grace - in the death and resurrection of Christ and through the mark of his cross upon us - our ticket has been punched. We are saved. It is God's gift! Nothing to fear.*** Describe the picture that comes to mind when you think about "Judgment Day." Is it shaped by fear or grace? How does your imagined day of judgment impact the way you live today? How does it impact the way we live together in community? (See Luke 6:37)
- In his message, Pastor Nordin shared a story about visiting with Alice in her home and making an unfair judgment. Tell about a time when you were too quick to place judgment upon someone. What did you learn?
- ***In The Jesus Way we are set free. Our chains are gone! Did you hear the Good News? "There is NO condemnation for all who are marked with the cross of Christ." (Romans 8:1)*** Do you find it harder to extend grace to others or to yourself? Share about a time that you struggled to forgive yourself. Share about a time when choosing to forgive yourself set you free from guilt and shame. What did it set you free FOR?

**CHALLENGE:** Spend some time this week reflecting on the end of Pastor Nordin's message where he referred back to his visit to Alice's house: ***How about you? Anything on the shoes of your soul? The Gospel changes everything! May the precious word of the Gospel - the Jesus Way - continue to set you free.***