

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



Alive: God in the End

August 27 & 28, 2022

For generations, people have debated, argued, often warned, sometimes ignored, and even found some humor in the ongoing debate about the world's end. When will it happen? How will it unfold? Who will go to heaven? Who will find yet another version of a personal hell? Well, what if those aren't the right questions? What if, in the end, God is calling us into a partnership to create a new beginning?

SCRIPTURE TEXT: REVELATION 21:1-6

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Throughout time while humankind has been loudly predicting death, destruction, and the end of the world as we know it, God has been quietly calling people into "the Partnership of New Beginnings."

We find one of the earliest announcements of what God is up to in one of the most read but least understood books in the Christian scriptures, the book of Revelation. Revelation is a letter to a group of seven churches in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, with a powerfully hopeful message. It's a message not about endings, but about the new beginnings into which God is calling us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ***"God, in the end, calls us into the Partnership of New Beginnings by equipping us to push back against hatred by leading with love and responding to wrongdoing with forgiveness."*** Share about a time when you led with love or responded to wrongdoing with forgiveness. Then, share about a situation you are currently facing where love and forgiveness are needed in order to move forward.
- ***"God, in the end, calls us into the Partnership of New Beginnings by helping us to embrace and even welcome doubt as the doorway to deeper faith where despair is transformed by the power of hope."*** Tell about a time that seeking and finding greater understanding about something enhanced your life in some way. Has that ever happened with your faith? What doubts are you currently pondering? How is God meeting you there?
- ***"God, in the end, calls us into the Partnership of New Beginnings as the living Word of Christ shines through us to illuminate the darkness around us."*** How is God currently at work making YOU new? How can God's work in you enable you to partner with God to bring light to the dark places in the world? How has God shined through you recently to brighten someone's day?

APPLICATION: This week pray for guidance and inspiration to reframe an ending you are facing into an opportunity for a new beginning.