

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



In the Habit

September 4 & 5, 2021

Who we hang out with matters a lot. It's been said that we are the average of the five people we hang out with most! This week we're going to begin a conversation about why it is important that at least one of those people we hang out with is Jesus.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Behind the importance of building habits into our lives is the concept of apprenticeship. And this is important when we think about building spiritual habits. When Jesus calls us to follow him, he's calling us to apprenticeship. An apprentice watches what the master does, and then imitates him. At first, it's awkward and the work is imperfect. But with enough practice, an apprentice develops skills that become habits. The work, once challenging and requiring concentration, becomes effortless. This principle holds true in so many areas of life. Want to get better at tennis? Practice the basics until they become habit. Want to play the piano well? Practice the basics until they become habit. Want to become a more fruitful follower of Jesus? Practice the basics until they become habit. In this series we'll explore some of the core habits that can enrich our daily faith walk and make us more fruitful for the Kingdom.

The heart of what Paul was writing about in this passage is this: "Keep on doing the things that you've learned and heard and seen in me and the God of peace will be with you." What were those things? Why were they important enough for Paul to insist on them? What would it mean for us as a community of Jesus followers if we did the same? The Apostle Paul was an apprentice of Jesus. That meant that Paul patterned his life after Jesus. He wanted to be like Jesus in every way: Paul wanted to think like Jesus, pray like Jesus, serve like Jesus. Paul wanted to walk and talk like Jesus. He wanted to worship God like Jesus. The habits that Paul built into his life provided the foundation for him to become more like Jesus in every way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about something you have spent lots of time practicing.
- How does this passage from Philippians guide us in building our habits?
- What are some spiritual habits you have developed in your life? Any you want to put more effort into?
- Why do these spiritual habits matter in our lives today? What difference will they make?

APPLICATION: This week, consider what it means to be an apprentice of Jesus. What might you need to add into your daily life (or maybe remove) in order to make space for spiritual habits? Ask God to guide you.