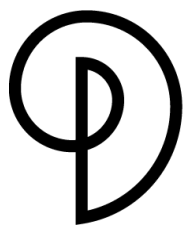


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Sharing Your Story

October 2 & 3, 2021

You've got a story to tell. It's a story of good news, not unlike the announcement of an engagement or the birth of a child. It's a story that only you can tell, and it might just change someone's life.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: MARK 1:40-45

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

"How did the man with leprosy know to come to Jesus for healing?" That's a part of the story that Mark doesn't tell us, but we can safely assume that the leper heard about Jesus from someone else. In other words, someone else had an experience with Jesus. Perhaps they saw Jesus heal someone, or perhaps they themselves had been healed, and so they shared their story with the leper. They planted a seed of hope that perhaps the leper, too, could experience healing. And he did! Leprosy was so much more than a physical ailment in the first century. Lepers were societal outcasts, separated even from their own families. Can you imagine how grateful this man would have been to be healed, grateful not just to Jesus but to the person who told him about Jesus? That simple act of sharing their story changed the leper's life.

And what does the leper do? He does what comes naturally. He goes out and shares his story with others – first with the priest and then with anyone who will listen to him. He shares his story about Jesus and about how he was healed in the hopes that someone else might be blessed as he was. This is what we do when we have a great experience. When we see a great movie, eat at a restaurant that blows us away or take a vacation somewhere that exceeds all expectations we tell others about it. We share our story. Except when it comes to our faith life. Studies show that less than 10% of Christians talk to anyone outside their church about their faith or their experience with God. And according to those same studies the primary reasons given for why are: fear of rejection, wouldn't know what to say, and assume that people aren't interested.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a great restaurant you've visited recently. What did you love about it?
- What is God teaching us in this passage?
- Why is it harder for us to share our story of faith vs a restaurant experience? What has held you back?
- How might we see things differently as a result of sharing our story?

APPLICATION: This week, consider one small step you can take towards sharing your story. This step may look different for everyone—and that is ok! Share your story with someone in your life this week.