

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Love One Another

October 16 & 17, 2021

Of all the starting places for the community of God, there is one that stands alone: Love. What should this love look like? Where does it come from? And what difference does it make? The Bible tells us that we are to “love one another,” but what does that mean? How are Christians called to love? This week we’ll learn the way forward by taking a look at the way Jesus first loved us.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: 1 JOHN 4:7-20

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Our reading for today comes from a letter that the apostle John wrote to a second or third generation church plant about how they were to be a fellowship. And he has some specific ideas about what it meant to be a fellowship. First and foremost, he believed that the fellowship of people that followed Jesus was supposed to be a “holy” fellowship. Well, for John and the other writers of the new testament, when they heard the word holy, what registered for them was to be “set apart.” But, not just set apart from, they were to be set apart for. They would have remembered the way that God called Abraham to be a blessing for the world. They would have remembered Jesus’ words to be salt and light, FOR THE PURPOSE OF.

We are a holy fellowship that reveals God to the world. How do we do that? The text here says we do it in the way we LOVE. But is it just any love? Will any type of love do? Not according to John. Just before our passage today, John has a word about “testing the spirits.” For John, there are a lot of other options, spirits, anti-Christ’s out there that have ideas about how to love. To John, it is critical that we maintain contact with the love that Jesus demonstrated so that we are able to continue to be the Jesus-centered, holy fellowship we were created to be. So, we are to love like Jesus. Well, then how did Jesus love? For that we’ll need to get our heads into this passage from 1 John as well as what John recorded as he was following Jesus during his ministry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share what you think of when you hear the word “fellowship.”
- What is God teaching us in this passage?
- How might this passage change the way we think about the way we love one another?
- What does it look like to live in holy fellowship with one another?

APPLICATION: This week, consider what it looks like to love like Jesus every day. What might you need to add into your daily life, or remove, in order to take a step towards living this way?