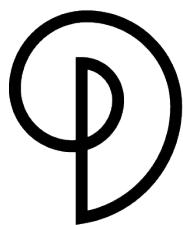


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Patience

October 21 & 22, 2023

Both Ruth and Naomi are on a path to nowhere. Both of their lives are unremarkable and could have ended without notice. However, the spiritual fruit of patience put both Ruth and Naomi on a path of healing and wholeness. As they are patient with one another, they find a generous purpose and create a foundation of life for generations to come. We all can feel like we're on a path to nowhere, close to being lost in the dust of time. Living the Spirit Life of patience pulls us into purposeful generosity.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: RUTH 1:16-17

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

There are many, many things going on in the book of Ruth. Most people read it as a story of loyalty as seen in Ruth's promise to her mother-in-law in this week's scripture passage. But let's not miss the spiritual fruit of patience that brings forth generosity in all of its key characters. Their generosity changes the course of history for an entire people, as their descendant, King David, becomes a great champion and revered king.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share stories that illustrate how some of the following aspects of your life have been shaped by the Spiritual Fruit of patience: marriage, parenting, friendship, career path, goal-reaching, financial generosity. What tries your patience? What has helped you grow in patience? Share about a situation you are currently facing where you need to exercise patience. How can we be praying for you?
- Reread Ruth 1:16-17 - one of the most famous promises in all of scripture. What are some other promises found in scripture? Who else makes promises to you? What promises do they make? What are some promises you have made? What role does patience play in the promises we make and in the promises that are made to us?
- Share about a time your patience was rewarded with generosity. Have you ever responded to somebody's patience with generosity? Share about that.
- "Financial generosity is not a topic we love to linger on." Why is that? What about this topic makes you uncomfortable or impatient? What are some topics that you DO love to linger on?

CHALLENGE: As we move together through our stewardship appeal and you consider your response, be patient with yourself and with one another. Take time to reflect, and to get things sorted out. And be yourself. Your unique gifts and our collective generosity are both essential to Prince of Peace and our mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.