

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## WELCOME THE SEASONS

DAYS OF HOPE,  
PEACE, LOVE & JOY

### Days of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy

*November 20 & 21, 2021*

An invitation to experience the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Day in ways that deepen the sense of gratitude for the anticipation, celebration, and manifestation of what God is doing in our midst.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 1:26-33

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

In a matter of days, we'll celebrate Thanksgiving, and if you're like me, a lot has to happen between today and next Thursday. Then, next weekend, the season of Advent begins. And for four weeks we'll be shopping, cooking, decorating, maybe even traveling. And then Christmas arrives. And with the Christmas season comes the familiar stress over relationships, health, jobs, finances, spending. And then the New Year's celebration. Then it's Epiphany.

Friends, a lot is coming our way. Are you ready? Are you prepared? If this year is like so many years in the past, by next week, we're going to need a nap. Maybe some of us will need therapy. For many people, this time of year is a big challenge. And with all that the past year has thrown at us, we may be more inclined at this moment to resist rather than welcome the seasons.

But can we? Can we welcome these seasons? We can. Everything we do moving from Thanksgiving through Advent to Christmas and on toward Epiphany is about one thing: the gift of Jesus to the whole creation. Today, we're asking this question: "How will we 'Welcome the Seasons' this year in ways that make room for that birth in our lives?"

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share your favorite thing about this time of year. And then share your least favorite.
- What emotions surface for you during this season?
- What can we do to "Welcome the Seasons" and make room for the birth of Jesus in our lives?
- Why is it important for us to lean into this wonderful gift of Jesus' birth during this time?

**APPLICATION:** This week, spend some time in prayer, asking God to prepare you for this season. What might God be stirring in your heart this year? How can we truly "Welcome the Seasons" in our daily life?