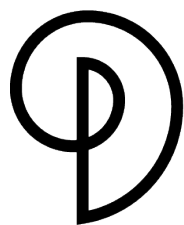


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



Connecting All Creation

April 29 & 30, 2023

We are deeply interconnected across this big, beautiful world, and what we do or fail to do in relation to caring for creation has implications for our neighbors around the corner and around the globe. If the heart of our faith is to love God and love our neighbor, then caring for creation becomes central to our discipleship.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 10:25-37

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Part of what we've sought to do in the first two weeks of this Sacred Earth series is to reframe the world's perspective - that if it doesn't impact me I don't have to care about it - and call us to embrace a Kingdom perspective that says that we are all connected in this human family, and part of what connects us is our mutual dependence upon the land, water, and air with which God has gifted us. We care for creation because brothers and sisters around the world are being negatively impacted by our lack of care for creation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In his sermon, Pastor Jeff shared about how his personal connection to the people living in the Dominican Republic called him to action after learning about the negative environmental impact of gold mining there. Share about a cause you support because of a personal connection to it.

According to Jesus, the neighbor we are called to love is anyone in need. And when we fail to do what we can to care for the planet, we are failing to care for our neighbor.

- What are some stories making headlines today that show the negative impact of our lack of care for creation? On a scale of 1-10, how tempted are you to "just move on" after reading such stories? How are we being called to "love our neighbor" in response to these specific situations?

Caring for our neighbor is costly and takes commitment.

- Share a story about the cost and commitment you invested to care for a neighbor or share a story about the cost and commitment a neighbor invested to care for you.
- What are some costs you've experienced in your attempts to care for creation? What motivates you to keep caring despite the costs involved?

CHALLENGE: Be a Samaritan. Respond to Jesus' call to love your neighbor by committing to caring for this earth we and future generations are dependent upon. Reflect on these questions: Where do I begin? How can I have an impact? As you do, be encouraged by this good news: Every commitment, every step in the right direction, makes a difference.