

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



Becoming Real

September 2 & 3, 2023

How might you answer these questions: “Are YOU lovable? Are YOU worthy of love?” This weekend, we’ll dig into these ideas a bit more and after we finish our time together, we think that you’ll have a clear sense of the answer to these questions. It will be good news to your heart and ears!

SCRIPTURE TEXT: GALATIANS 2:19-20

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

When we’re loved... AS we are... we can finally be REAL. We can stop trying to be the BEST version of ourselves when we realize that God sees the CURRENT version of ourselves who’s trying so doggone hard to get it together AND God sees the PAST version of ourselves who really dropped the ball when it counted AND God sees the FUTURE version of ourselves who will no doubt manage to disappoint AND God sees the WORST version of ourselves in that moment we REALLY regret, that we’re haunted by, that we don’t want to acknowledge. God sees the whole movie of our lives - and God says: you’re worthy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time you really tried to impress somebody. Who was it, what did you do to impress them, and did it work? What are some things you try to “do” to impress God?
- How would you describe the “elusive best version of yourself?” Where do you most often fall short of that ideal?
- Have you ever had a moment (like Martin Luther and the Apostle Paul) when you were “driven to utter despair and then driven to the cross when you had nowhere left to go?” If so, share about it.
- **Luther said, “God doesn’t need your good works, but your neighbor does.”** How has being set free FROM needing to prove your worthiness to God set you free TO love your neighbor with no ulterior motives? Share about a time you did this well. How does Prince of Peace do this well? Where can you or Prince of Peace grow in this?
- Read or recall the passage from the Velveteen Rabbit from Nathan’s message. Who is a Skin Horse in your life? What truth have they shared with you? Who has been a “real” friend to you? Who have you been a “real” friend to?

CHALLENGE: On this LABOR day week, rest from the work of trying to get God to love you more. Instead, let God fully, deeply, unconditionally, lavishly, and relentlessly love the ACTUAL (real) version of yourself.