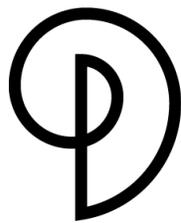


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



WELCOME
THE SEASONS
Epiphany

All Yours

January 2, 2022

A New Year unfolds before us like a blank canvas. We may have plans and hopes and dreams that we wish to paint on that canvas, but ultimately, we don't know what the future holds. And given the uncertainty of the past couple of years we may be wondering, "How do we enter a New Year?" Psalm 37 invites us to commit all of our hopes and dreams and lives to the Lord.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PSALM 37:3-7, 34A

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Beginnings matter, and how we begin matters even more. That's especially true as we stand on the threshold of a New Year. The days of this New Year unfold before us like a blank scroll, waiting for our future to be written. So here's the question I ask myself at this time every year, and the question I want to ask you today: **What are your hopes and dreams for the coming year?** Without hopes and dreams we might just wander aimlessly through the days ahead, but when we give voice to our hopes and dreams, they serve as destination points that call us forward. As followers of Jesus we don't dream on our own. We invite the Holy Spirit to partner in the process. God has dreams for us, and so we trust the Spirit to shape our hearts and guide our minds so that the destination of our days is bigger than us, as big as God's Kingdom work in the world.

As I listen to the words of Psalm 37 at the start of this New Year, I hear the Spirit calling us to not only give voice to our Spirit-led hopes and dreams, but to commit them all to Lord. Let's consider five key areas of life to dream about with the Spirit: **relationships, spirituality, body, mind, and heart/emotions**. What are your hopes and dreams for 2022 in these five areas? Let's commit our hopes and dream to God as we step into this New Year.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Are you someone that sets New Year's resolutions? Share why or why not.
- How does Psalm 37 lay a strong foundation as we consider our hopes and dreams for 2022?
- Of the five categories mentioned, is one harder to set a goal for than the others? Why do you think so?
- If we lean into these hope and dreams AND commit them to God, how might 2022 look different for you?

APPLICATION: This week, spend some time in prayer over your hopes and dreams for 2022. Commit them to God and know that your intentions matter to God. Let's walk with intentionality into 2022 together.