

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Not So Fast

January 3, 2021

We're all glad that 2020 is behind us, and we hope and pray that 2021 holds better things. But before we rush into this New Year let's pause and reflect on the year that we've just experienced. Challenges, hardship and struggle are excellent teachers. We grow wise when we invite the Holy Spirit to join us in reflecting on the past, learning what it has to teach us, and applying it to the present and the future.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PROVERBS 1:20-25

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

There's a name for that process of reflecting and learning from the past, and then applying what we've learned. It's called wisdom. We grow wise when we invite the Holy Spirit to join us in reflecting on the past, learning what it has to teach us, and applying it to the present and the future. That is exactly what the Spirit is calling us to do today.

The 31 chapters that make up the book of Proverbs are filled with the call to live with wisdom. In today's Scripture reading Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who begs people to live wisely so that they might avoid disaster, the kind of disaster that happens when we fail to learn the lessons of the past.

One of the things to love about the book of Proverbs is that it's direct. It's blunt. So often we read a passage of Scripture and wonder, "What the heck does that mean"? But not in Proverbs. We may not always like what we read in Proverbs, but we don't wonder what it means - "It says it straight." And what it says in this passage is that we're called to live wisely, to learn, guided by the Spirit, all that life has to teach us and apply it. So, before we toss 2020 away like a carton of sour milk, let's learn what we can from it, and apply it to the New Year ahead of us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you typically make New Year's Resolutions? What is that process like for you?
- What is one lesson you learned in 2020?
- How have past challenges or struggles lead to wisdom in your life?
- What can we take from 2020 into 2021 that compels us to live differently?

APPLICATION: This week, spend time reflecting on what you learned in 2020 and then commit to living differently in 2021. Listen to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is calling you.