

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Called from People, Places or Situations

January 26 & 27, 2019

When you think about the biblical story, it's surprising how often God calls people from people, places or situations. He calls Abram to leave his home and journey to an unknown land. Moses is called from the pastures, as is David. Jesus called his disciples from their jobs and from their families in order to follow him. We cannot be called to something new without leaving something familiar, which means that living into our callings means learning to let go, grieve and trust.

SCRIPTURE TEXT : GENESIS 12:1-4

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

This is such a seminal story the arc of Israelites history, and perhaps the first example in Genesis of a vocation, a calling. There is certainly a sense in which God's call mandates dependence upon God, especially when we consider that God never clearly stipulate where Abraham is to "go" to! But there is also the theme that sometimes one cannot be obedient to God's call until one leaves what one has known. In the first week of this series, we said that one of the ways in which we experience God's call is as a path, a journey, something that we discover and something that unfolds "along the way." Abraham's story is certainly an example of this experience. It is also an invitation to see the story of our lives through the lens of Abraham's life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Abraham responds immediately to God's call. How do you think he was feeling? Would you be able to respond that quickly? Why or why not?
- When has God called you from people, places or situations as a way of initiating a new journey or phase of life? Did you know that it was God at the time, or did you only realize it in retrospect?
- When have you felt "called" without really knowing where you were being called to? What was that experience like?
- What have you learned about God and about yourself through the experience of being called from?

APPLICATION: This week, notice when you feel a nudge to "go," even if the destination is unclear. To what (people, place, priority) might God be calling you? Why not go?

*Additional Resource: The Stories We Live by Kathleen Cahalan**

**This sermon series is based on concepts from Cahalan's book. This week's sermon and study guide following along with Ch. 4.*