

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Called for Service and Work

February 2 & 3, 2019

When we dare to believe that God calls us, the next logical question is, “What am I called for?” The broad arc of scripture suggests that we are called for self-giving service for the sake of God’s world. Cahalan suggests three questions for consideration when seeking to discern our calling: Is what I’m doing a source of joy? Does it make use of our gifts and talents? Does it serve the needs of others? Those who discern and live into their calling know the truth of Psalm 37:4.

SCRIPTURE TEXT : PHILIPPIANS 2:1-8

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

These verses flow from chapter one in which Paul notes that the Philippians were facing conflict with those who would deny the Gospel, much as Paul, writing from prison, is (1:29). In order to face these challenges victoriously Paul knows that the Philippians must be unified, and unity mandates humility. To illustrate genuine humility, and to point to the power that grows humility in us, Paul paints a picture of Jesus. Jesus’ example of humility focuses not just on what he was willing to give up but also what he was willing to embrace: the restrictions of humanity—including temptation, the attitude of a slave—living to serve others, complete obedience to the point of death on a cross. While volumes have been written on the theology of these verses the bottom line is clear: Jesus is our model and power for a life of humble service.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who do you admire because they truly put the interests of others ahead of their own?
- What do you think it was like for Jesus to leave heaven and become human?
- When have you been nudged to empty yourself for the sake of serving another? What happened? How did the experience impact you?
- How would you describe the sense of purpose you get from your calling?
- How have the answers to the three questions above shaped your sense of calling?

APPLICATION: This week, identify one way you can step deeper into a life of humble service. Whether it is within your family, your work place, at church, or somewhere else. Take the step.

*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. 5.*