

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Called through Each Other

February 9 & 10, 2019

While God can call people like Moses through a burning bush, most people say that they first experienced a sense of calling through another person. God speaks through others to help us to understand who we are, where our gifts lie, and how they might be deployed for the sake of God's world. On the flip side, this truth encourages us to reflect back people's gifts to them. That's especially true for parents and grandparents. As a community of faith we are privileged and empowered to bless children with the affirmation of their gifts.

SCRIPTURE TEXT : PROVERBS 22:6

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

This is one way in which we first discern our callings in life. Someone else (in most cases our parents) see in us what we cannot yet see, name it and encourage its growth. And I would suggest that this process doesn't stop with our parents. For many of us, the pathway of our life, the discernment of our callings, has come from the insight and encouragement of family members, teachers, friends, and others, seeing in us what have not yet seen in ourselves. This truth, then, calls us to do two things. First, to be open to the insight and encouragement of others, to be willing to hear God's calling through others. Second, to allow the Spirit to use us to be a source of insight and encouragement in the lives of others, allowing God to call others through us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who discerned and encouraged your "bent"? How did they do it? What was the impact?
- Have you had the opportunity to help encourage someone's gift? What was that like for you?
- What barriers keep us from discerning and encouraging the gifts of others at Prince of Peace and beyond?
- What barriers stand in the way of our receiving and responding to the discernment and encouragement of others?

APPLICATION: This week, identify someone you can encourage. How are they gifted and what can you do to cheer them on? **BONUS:** Identify someone that encouraged your gifts and reach out to thank them.

*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. 6.*