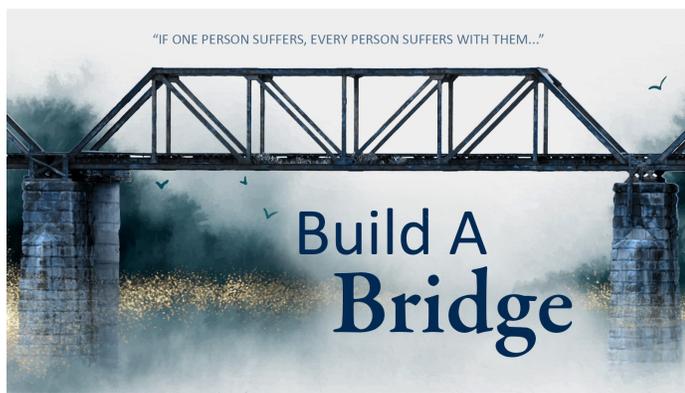


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Where Healing Begins

March 7, 2021

As Christ-followers we are called to come alongside those in need, the marginalized, victims of injustice and do what we can to make it right. According to *Be the Bridge* author Latasha Morrison, racial healing begins with confession... and scripture agrees! When we honestly confess our sin, we are healed and the journey toward racial healing in America can begin.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PSALM 32:1-5

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Many biblical scholars believe that David wrote this Psalm in the context of his affair with Bathsheba. If you're not familiar with that story, King David slept with another man's wife. She conceived, and then to cover up the affair David had her husband killed in battle. David's eyes were opened to see the gravity of his actions and that led him to write this song of confession. David's actions left a trail of relational wreckage behind him, and we don't know if he ever sought to make things right with the people whose lives he wounded. What we do know is that his journey toward healing began with confession before God.

Historically, when the Church talks about sin and confession, we talk about it in two broad categories: sins of omission and sins of commission. Or, to use the language of the old confession, "things we have done and things we have left undone." And as we consider both of those broad categories, let's acknowledge that we need God's help to see clearly through the words of Psalm 139: *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.* What a great reminder that what matters here is not what we think we may or may not have done. What matters is seeing clearly what has offended God, what stands opposed to God's heart and God's ways.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever confessed a sin, or apologized to someone, and felt the same joy and relief that David felt?
- How do sins of omission and sins of commission compare? Have you considered these two types before?
- How might confession set us on the path of racial reconciliation?
- Why is this an important next step on our journey?

APPLICATION: This week, spend time in prayer, asking God's forgiveness for our collective sins and personal sins of both omission and commission. Ask God to forgive you so that you might be ready for the next step towards racial reconciliation.