

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



The Mission

June 1-5, 2019

This week sets the frame for the story that we'll explore all summer. The mission is now in our hands, and it happens right here, right now (not "up there" when we die). The mission is to bear witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus. The mission will be empowered by the Spirit.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 1:1-11

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The Ascension is essentially a "hand off" of the work that God started in Jesus. The text lays several important foundational truths out:

- The heart of our mission to be witnesses to Jesus in the world. This implies that we both share our experience of the risen Christ with others (Tell) and reflect his risen presence through our actions (Go). This helps to push us beyond doing good for goodness' sake.
- We are empowered for this mission by the Holy Spirit. "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit", says the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6) What an important word for us!
- We'll be held accountable for accomplishing the mission. That's what the final word about Jesus' return is all about. That accountability is reflected in many of Jesus' parables.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you think it was like for the apostles to be present when Jesus ascended to Heaven?
- How would you describe what it means to be a witness?
- When have you been a witness? What happened?
- What does this passage tell us about the mission of the church overall?
- How is our mission today the same as it was to the early apostles? How is it different?

APPLICATION: Consider an "elevator speech" about your faith in Christ. If you had 30 seconds to witness to someone and tell them what being a Christian means to you, what would you say? Spend time this week thinking through what you might say—not trying to convince them of your belief but sharing part of your story of faith. We have an amazing story to share!