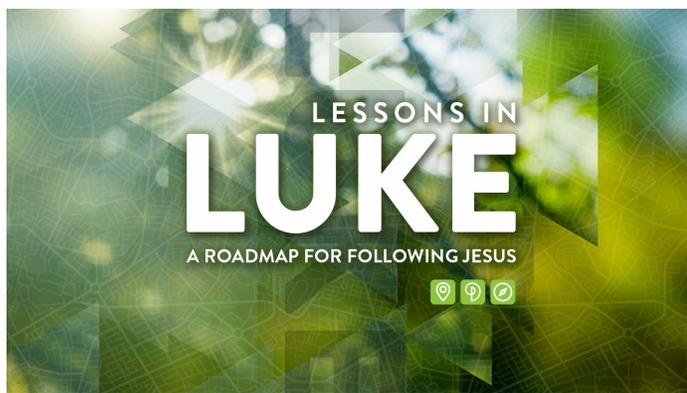


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



New Life

June 6, 2021

2020 will be remembered as a year of loss. Wading into grief and loss is difficult for everyone. We want to support each other, but we don't know what to say. Luckily, we don't have to say anything, not a word. We just need to be there for each other, to show up and be present. It's how we show compassion and build community.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 7:1-17

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

This is a story filled with intention and purpose. The Gospel writer, Luke, has an agenda. His purpose is to create a tension between life and death; or, probably more to the point, between death and life. We're supposed to feel the pain of this moment, the depth of this loss. Understanding the sheer ache of the grief and loss in this story is important because the deeper the sense of loss, the greater the sense of new life—resurrection that comes from it. Luke tells us that the young man who died was "...his mother's only son." She's on the way to the cemetery to bury her flesh and blood, her only son. And just as that part of the story is beginning to sink in, Luke adds this little detail: "...and she was a widow." She's lost her husband. And now she's lost her "only begotten son." In the first century, that would have been a death sentence for her. With her husband gone, her life is in jeopardy. Who will care for her with her husband gone? Well her son, of course. That's the way it worked. But now her son is gone, and with him, her support was gone as well. She's all alone. She's done; she's completely done. Or so she believes.

This is where the kingdom of God breaks into the reality of death and grief and loss with the message of New Life. Jesus wanted this mother do know that even in the middle of the grief of loss and death, she was not alone. She was not done. The people of Nain, this beautiful community of new life surrounded her, and embraced her as they lived with one big question: "How do we show the compassion of Jesus to others?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In 2020, we all experienced loss in some way or another. What was your biggest loss in the past year?
- What is Jesus teaching us in this passage?
- What can we learn from the community around this woman?
- How can we show the compassion of Jesus to others?

APPLICATION: This week, consider what it truly looks like in daily life to show compassion to others. Ask God to reveal this truth to you and show you how to take a step into deeper compassion for others.