

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



What Now?

June 7, 2020

One of the first and most important steps toward the racial healing of our nation is to learn to see what we are not yet seeing, and to know that it will take time to see more clearly. Along with this study, Pastor Jeff had an in-depth conversation with a few of our black brothers and sisters. We would encourage you to watch it in its entirety. The full conversation can be found here: popmn.org/youtube.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: MARK 8:22-26

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

“This conversation around race is so hard on so many levels, but one of the difficulties is that none of us like to feel shamed and none of us likes to feel accused of moral failure, and so we’re offended by any inference that we are racist. To be sure, some racism is a profound moral failure. Nazism, the Klan...all white supremacy...that’s moral failure. But for many of us in white community, racism is less a conscious choice and more a blindness. As a white person, the system works for me. In fact, more often than not it’s stacked in my favor. I’m not afraid of the police. Shop owners see me as a customer, not a potential threat. So I don’t even see racism at work. And I think that’s true for many of us in white community.

Which is why I think today’s scripture reading is so relevant. Ever wonder why there are so many stories in the gospels of Jesus healing the blind? Ever wonder why, in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus frames his ministry in the words of Isaiah, that the Messiah has come to restore sight to the blind? It’s about so much more than physical blindness. It’s about the power and grace of God to open our eyes to things we cannot yet see but need to. How interesting that in today’s story it took time for the blind man to clearly see people. At first, they looked like walking trees! I suspect that’s true for all of us. “ - Pastor Jeff Marian

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Can you think of an experience in your life where your “blindness” was removed? Explain.
- What aspects of this story from Mark stand out to you? What resonates most?
- What steps are you taking to begin working on your racial blindness?
- How can we continue to respond to what is happening in our state?

APPLICATION: This week, take time to listen. Find a podcast. Read a book. Look for videos online to help broaden your scope of racial injustice. Ask God to sharpen your sight, and open your eyes to see new things.