

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Generous Community

June 22-26, 2019

The mission calls us to live differently. We've been formed into a new, distinctive community. This new community is both the "mission outpost" that nurtures and sends us and is part of our witness. The early church had a rally cry that motivated them to give their lives...literally. What's our Rally Cry?

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 4:32-37

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

An underlying question in this passage seems to have to do with what it means to be a believer? *"The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind..."* Luke answers that by telling a story about the generosity of the early church living with all things in common. But there's a caveat. While we often imagine the noble scene of the disciples "forking it all over" to the apostles, sharing everything, playing nice with each other, the truth is that they pretty much didn't carry this out. Three chapters later - at the end of chapter 11, the community of faith is still dealing with poverty among their ranks and would respond by sending relief to the believers living in Judea (11:9). That said, there is a larger point: While we'll always have the poor among us, the call continues for post-resurrection Christ followers to live differently, to be the a new, distinctive community of Christ. As a generous followers, Jesus loosens the heart's relationship to things and tightens the heart's relationship to other people . Trusting faith in Christ creates a bond of love to people, and cuts the bond of love to things.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stands out to you from this passage in Acts?
- What does "Church Unity" look like to you?
- Does being Christ followers, believers, inform the way we live generously? How?
- How does being a believer loosen your heart's relationship to things?
- How does being a believer tighten your heart's relationship to others?

APPLICATION: This week, consider this quote: "People were created to be loved. Things were created to be used. The reason why the world is in chaos, is because things are being loved and people are being used." How can you take one step into deeper generosity this week?