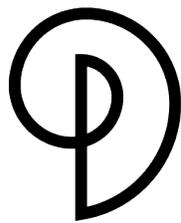


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



Alive: Spirit of Unity and Diversity

July 2 & 3, 2022

I learned everything I needed to know about outreach and evangelism during my time in the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Faribault, Minnesota. There was a conspiracy going on there, and I was right in the middle of it. This weekend I'm going to tell you about that and reveal the three circles of influence in our lives where God is already at work bringing goodness to everyone.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:1-6

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

This week we're focusing on what it means to be alive with the Spirit of Unity and Diversity, but I have to tell you that there's a big twist in this. I want us to think about the unity that we share in the grace and love of God and the rich diversity of how God's grace and love is expressed through each of us to be the renewing, restoring, and reconciling presence of Christ in the world.

All of this is rooted in a passage in the book of Ephesians 4:1-6.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read some other Bible verses about unity such as: 1 Corinthians 12:12, Psalm 133:1, Colossians 3:14, Acts 4:32, and John 17:23. According to these verses and the Ephesians text, what is the purpose of Christian unity? What are the benefits? Share a story about a time you felt a sense of unity with the body of Christ.
- To bring about unity, "God ***renews, restores, and reconciles*** us as the body of Christ, and sends us out in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of the risen Christ." What is something in your life currently in need of renewal, restoration, or reconciliation? When have you been a force of renewal, restoration, or reconciliation in the world? Where do you most see a need for renewal/restoration/reconciliation in the world today? How can you be part of that work?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. These verses illustrate how God "brings us together in a beautiful unity known for its beautiful diversity." How have you been blessed by the diversity within the body of Christ?

APPLICATION: Sit with the tension of unity and diversity this week. Listen for God asking, calling, and equipping you through the movement of the Spirit to continue to live, learn, and grow away from hostile one-versus-other-ness and towards hospitable one-another-ness.