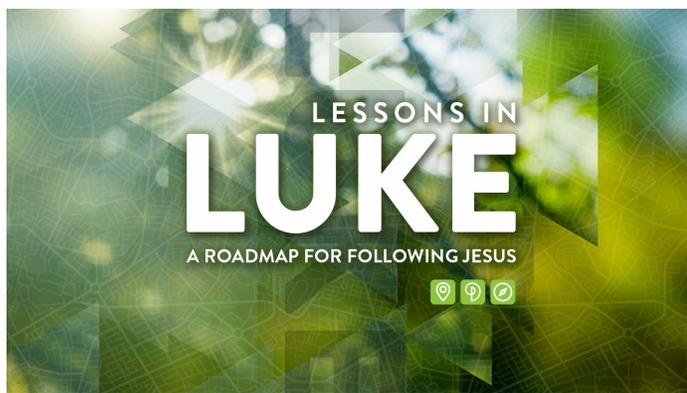


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Do Not Worry

July 25, 2021

Most of us have spent time worrying at one time or another. It's never enjoyable. Jesus knows this about us and gives us some handles to address our worries. We can lay our fears and worries in the hands of God who loves us and cares about all that we are going through today. We can trust in God's amazing, overwhelming love for us.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 12:22-32

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

In today's Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus tells us, plain and simple, "Don't worry!" This section in Luke 12 is related to the conversation Jesus is having with those questioning how to settle their estate. At the core of this conversation is the fear of "will I have enough"? If we're not careful, worrying can become a way of life. And all worrying does is give us a false sense of control, as if to say that, by worrying, we're somehow changing the course of events. Worrying literally accomplishes nothing! It's a waste of time, and calling it what it is, a lie that tells us we are somehow in control, is the first step toward letting go of worry. We can quote Jesus, and say to ourselves, "Worrying doesn't add a moment to my life" and in fact, it takes our precious moments away!

If you think about it worrying never makes us feel better, it only makes us more anxious. It certainly doesn't fix anything. And yet ironically, we often think that somehow by worrying we can prevent something bad from happening. Unfortunately it doesn't work that way. We actually waste time and energy worrying. What can do we can expose it as meaningless? We can focus on right now, today, and we can give it to God. God has called us into a loving relationship. God wants us to bring everything to Him. Our thoughts, our worries, and our love. We can give it all to God. When we share what is on our hearts with God, especially the worry; we dare to believe that God is at work in ways we can't see or imagine. We open ourselves up to experiencing God's love for us through our quiet thoughts, through friends, family and even strangers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is something you worry about on a regular basis?
- What is Jesus teaching us in this passage?
- How does Jesus use examples from nature to emphasize his point?
- How can we apply this story in our lives today? How can we let go of our worry?

APPLICATION: This week, spend intentional time in prayer and bring all your worries to God, entrusting that God will take the burden of worry away. What will it take for you to let go of your worry this week?