

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Mission and Magic

July 27-31, 2019

The mission challenges powers and systems that oppress others, and that often creates serious conflict for disciples. From the moment Jesus began calling disciples to follow him, the mission of the church has remained the same: “be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.” To say that Jesus comes to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable remains at the heart of what it means to be a Christ follower.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 13:4-12

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Barnabas and Saul are on tour. The governor, a Gentile, Sergius Paulus, is curious about and wants to hear the Word of God. This is really amazing. Paulus is the ruler of all Cyprus. That’s a big deal. These missionaries are absolute nobodies in the Roman world. That’s an even bigger deal. The disciples have no human authority, they have no political standing, they have no connection to the World Council of Churches, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America doesn’t recognize them because they haven’t been to seminary. They have absolutely no credibility. But what they do have is a mission and they are equipped for the mission.

Barnabas and Saul are disrupting the norms in towns that know nothing of them or the mission. Make no mistake: Jesus was also a disruptor; he was a disturber of the peace. But there are times with the peace needs to be disturbed. There are times when systems that oppress and people that bully need to be disrupted. The story from Luke gives us a glimpse of the work of challenging systems that oppress others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you think Barnabas and Saul felt about their mission?
- What do you think about they way the interact with Elymas?
- Where is the most challenging place for you to share your faith?
- What does it mean to be a disruptor?
- How can we apply this to our lives today? Where in our world might there be a need for disruption?

APPLICATION: This week, take some time to intentionally acknowledge any oppression you see in our world and in your community. What might it look like to be a disruptor for change in these areas?