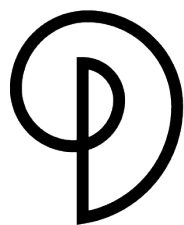


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Alive: Spirit of Restoration

*August 6 & 7, 2022*

Jesus promised his followers three things. First, their lives would not be easy. Second, they would never be alone. Third, in the end, all will be well.

But all is not well now, is it?

Which raises the question, how will God get us from not well to well? The answer might surprise you.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: PSALM 98

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

If God's judgment is nothing but punishment than this Psalm makes no sense. After all the joy and exuberance of the Psalm, why would the Psalmist conclude with a word about God's judgment if judgment were bad news? But in fact, the culmination of the Psalmist's reasons for joyfully praising the Lord is that the Lord will judge. The Lord will restore all things. And that is good news indeed!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are your top three reasons for praising the Lord today?
- Share a story about a time you were judged. Were you judged fairly? Was the judgment punitive or restorative?
- Share a story about a time you judged someone. Did you judge them fairly? Was the judgment punitive or restorative?
- When you think about "Judgment Day" what images come to mind? Is it something you fear or look forward to? Why?
- In Jeff's message, he suggests that our trust in God's restorative judgment should impact the way we live now. How does your hope in God's promise of restoration impact your daily life? Specifically, how does it:
  - impact how you invest your resources of time and money (i.e. stewardship)?
  - change the way you see trials and difficulties in daily life?
  - keep you living in hope?
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What word or phrase sticks out to you? How do these verses give you hope?

**APPLICATION:** "Life will not be easy. We will never be alone. In the end all will be well. That is all that we're promised. It is all that we know, and all that we need to know." This week, when life is not easy, reflect on the preceding quote from Jeff's sermon and take heart from Jesus' promises. Rest in the hope of restoration.