

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE  
OF PEACE  
Called to Connect



## Now It's Your Turn

August 24 & 25, 2019

As Paul says goodbye to his beloved friends in Ephesus, he reminds them of all they need to know about continuing the mission, because now it's in their hands. The church that has the most is the church that gives the most. If we were to "lay it all on the line" as a response to God's goodness in our lives, how would that change the way to do ... everything? What difference would it make in us?

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 20:25-38

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Paul seemed to always save the best for last. Here at the end of the book of Acts, we find Paul laying it all out there and not with a little urgency. This will be that last time some of these dear friends will see him, and he reminds them of this in verse 25. The "Therefore I declare to you" that begins verse 26 only heightens the importance of what Paul has to say. As the theme for the weekend suggests, "As Paul says goodbye to his beloved friends in Ephesus, he reminds them of all they need to know about continuing the mission, because now it's in their hands." The question for us is what, exactly, is in our hands?

That can be found in verse 32: "the message of [God's] grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified." Woven into this farewell speech are three salient admonitions: **be watchful** (there will be challenges—v. 28), **be alert** (dwell in the Truth—v. 29-31), and **be compassionate** (support those in need—v. 35).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What kinds of things do we need to be watchful of in our life together?
- What kinds of things do we need to be alert to in our life together?
- Is there a difference between being watchful and being on alert?
- What is our next compassionate move? How do we take Paul's instructions into action?

**APPLICATION:** This week, it's your turn. What does it look like to continue this mission we've spent all summer discussing? What is one step you can take this week to further the mission?