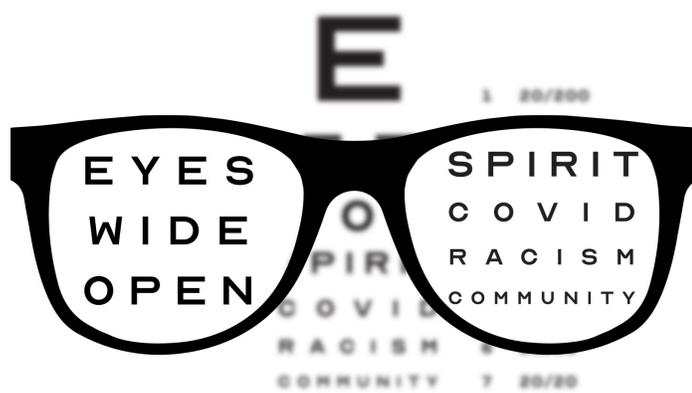


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Seeing God at Home

August 30, 2020

Moses calls himself "an alien residing in a foreign land." He has never been at home anywhere. Have you ever felt like Moses, feeling like you don't have a place where you can be yourself, where you will be totally accepted as you? In removing his sandals in the presence of God, Moses has at last found a true home in the presence of God. God is not in some far-off place, God resides with us.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: EXODUS 3:1-5

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

This story is about Moses. Moses has been a wanderer, wandering most of his life, he never had a sense of what it felt like to be at home. There was never a place where he felt at home. When this story begins Moses is out on a mountain, wandering around with his sheep when he suddenly encounters God. And through that encounter he sees with eyes wide open that his home with God. God says to Moses is "Take off your shoes you are standing on holy ground." There is something significant about removing shoes in middle eastern culture. When you remove your shoes you are showing reverence and respect. that is certainly part of what is happening. But if you read the rest of Exodus 3, you'll notice that Moses doesn't sound or act like a an awestruck man, even when he takes his shoes off. He actually converses with God like a friend.

God also tells Moses to take his shoes off because he wants Moses to be himself. To remove all pretense, to be vulnerable and open to what God has to say. God wanted Moses to be Moses, to be let go of trying to be perfect before God. Rather than pretending to be someone else or something that he is not. It is in this encounter with Moses that the barrier between God and us has been brought down. God shows Moses and us that God isn't some far off unattainable being that is looking down on us judging everything we do. Instead, God has invites Moses, and all of us, to be ourselves with God. To relax and be in a relationship of friendship, love and care.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where can you go, besides your own home, that gives you the same relaxed feeling of home?
- What does "home" mean to you?
- What does this interaction with Moses show us about God?
- How have you experienced God as your friend? Are you able to relax with God? Why or why not?

APPLICATION: This week, thank someone who allows you to be yourself in their presence, and maybe even their home. How can you give the gift of "home" to someone else? Ask God to reveal that to you this week.