# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

PRINCE OF PEACE
Called to Connect

## First Day

*September 6, 2020*

A new school year is about to launch, but it will launch differently than any other school year we've known. A new ministry season is about to begin, but it will be a different season in just about every way. September is emerging like no other September we can remember. All of this might remind us of the famous quote by Carl Sandburg who once said: "I don't know where I'm going, but I'm on my way."

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: GENESIS 12:1-4

Read the scripture text together as a group.

## BACKGROUND INFO

A lot happens in the first 11 chapters of Genesis. There's creation, God has provided everything needed for a well-balanced planet. But as soon as the first family shows up they make a mess; a brother by the name of Cain is jealous of his brother by the name of Abel and there's a murder. There's Noah, a boat, a rainstorm, a flood, then a rainbow and a promise. Then more dysfunction as a group of entrepreneurs build a tower into the sky to try to catch a glimpse of God. There's a lot of confusion. People stop listening to each other and then scatter. Then God says to Abram, we're going in a different direction to do something entirely new.

Three of the most strategic and important words in the Hebrew Scriptures are right here: "So Abram went…" Nothing happens if Abram doesn't go. God says to Abram, "Leave your country, your family, and your home and go." It was a huge mission and a huge challenge: leave what's known, what's familiar, and just head out, take a risk, get going. A lot like the first day of school. A lot like where the church is in general - where Prince of Peace is in particular - heading into the fall of 2020. God laid out a remarkable challenge to Abram and Sarah, a challenge that would move them from the known, the familiar, the safe, manageable and doable. But friends, along with that challenge, God provided something else. God provided a promise. God said "I will…" "I will provide a new place, a new land, place that I will show you." And the promise that God gave Abram thousands of years ago is that same promise that brings us together here today.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you remember the first day of school? What was that like for you?
- What sort of emotions do you think Abram and Sarah experienced when God challenged them to go?
- What promises does God reveal to us in this passage?
- Fall of 2020 looks different that any other fall we can remember. How can we trust God's same promises are true for us today in our current challenges?

**APPLICATION**: This week, ask God to open your eyes to opportunities. Where is God calling you to go? It's the first day of school—welcome to a new fall with new challenges and opportunities to respond to God's call.