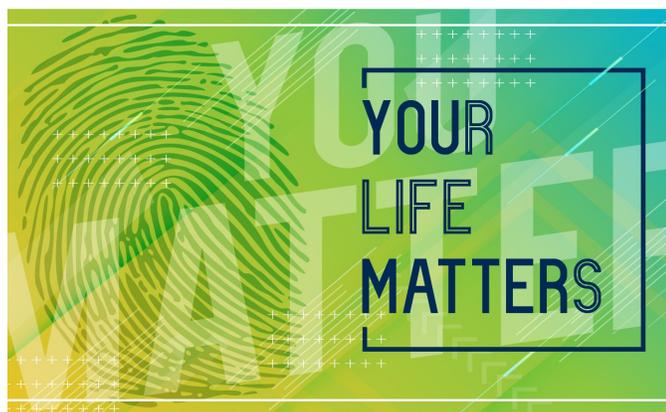


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Why a Living Witness?

September 7 & 8, 2019

People are “listening” to our lives. What are they hearing, and how is it (or isn’t it) bearing witness to Jesus? Being conscious of the message our life is preaching is an important first step, as is being committed to being open to personal transformation for the sake of our witness to Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: MATTHEW 5:13-16

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

We spent all summer talking about our mission, and we used Jesus’ words from Acts 1 to frame the mission, “You will be my witnesses”. The next two series are designed to put flesh on that witness, and this first series is about the witness that our life proclaims. This text is located in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, the “constitution” of the new Kingdom of God. In a sense with these verses Jesus teaches that living a Kingdom life (living from a Kingdom worldview) is our witness to the world.

All of this raises the question about what our distinctive is. What is our lived witness? Is it that we don’t ‘cuss, drink, smoke, dance, play cards and watch PG-13 movies? Is it that we condemn everything that doesn’t look like or smell like our brand of Christianity? I would suggest that the answer is found in the Sermon on the Mount itself. We live the “upside-down, inside-out” values of the Kingdom, choosing humility over pride, service over power, peace over anger, forgiveness over bitterness, love over hate, and faithfulness over all. Living in this way day-by-day, entrusting ourselves to the power of the Spirit, carries the aroma of Christ to the world. Truth is, the world is watching how we live, and living a Kingdom-life often opens others to conversation about God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What aspects of Kingdom living would you say are distinctively different from “the ways of the world”?
- When you think of a life that “preaches Christ,” who comes to mind and why? Whose life has inspired you to greater faithfulness?
- When are you tempted to “blend in” with the world?

APPLICATION: This week, think about your life as a billboard. What would it advertise about God? What is one practice you can implement this week to increase your awareness of the message your life proclaims?