

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



Impassioned

September 20, 2020

Often in Christian circles we've been told not to trust our heart (our feelings). And yet the heart is both the dwelling place of wisdom and our deepest passions/desires. So many of us live by the "shoulds" that have been imposed upon us through life, but our deepest "must" is the root of our life's calling. Our "must" is the burning passion within us, the "pearl of great price" for which we give up everything else to pursue.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Must and Should. These are two paths in life, and we arrive at the intersection of Must and Should over and over again. Every day we get to choose which path we will follow. **Should** is how other people want us to live our lives. It's all the expectations that others layer upon us. Sometimes Shoulds are small, harmless and easily accommodated. But at other times Shoulds are highly influential systems of thought that pressure and, at their most destructive, coerce us to live our lives differently. When we choose Should, we're choosing to live our life for someone or something other than ourselves. **Must** is different. Must is our true self, what we believe to be true deep in our bones, and what we do when we are alone with our truest and most authentic self. Must is the deep calling in our hearts, a passion that will not let us go, the thing we dare to dream about. Must is when we stop conforming to other people's ideals and start connecting to what God has placed in our hearts, listening deeply and responding.

The Bible is filled with the stories of people who followed their Must, the calling that God placed in their heart. This story from Philippians is all about Paul. Did you catch Paul's call, his Must, his burning passion? It was to know Christ in a very personal way, to grow in Christ and to make Christ known. Paul was willing to let go everything else, to let go of every Should in order to live into his unique Must. That's what brought Paul fully alive no matter how difficult life became. And through Paul, God changed the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some "shoulds" you have experienced in life? Big or small.
- How do we combat all the "shoulds" in life?
- What is your "must"? What is the passion God has uniquely placed in your heart?
- Tell about a time when you pursued or lived into that unique passion. What was that like for you?

APPLICATION: This week, determine one thing you can do to live into your must. What is a first, or next, step you can take to lean into the passion that God has uniquely placed in your heart?