

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

**NO
MATTER
WHAT...**

No Matter What ... Gratitude

October 8 & 9, 2022

We're beginning a series about a letter that could be called "The Secret of Life." It reveals the pathway to living with joy no matter what our circumstances. If you own a bible, you already have a copy. It's Paul's letter to the Philippians, and what we'll learn together from this ancient treasure in the weeks ahead is priceless.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

What we're about to dive into is a letter; a letter written by a real person to a real community of people nearly 2,000 years ago. Paul, the author of the letter, would be blown away if he knew we were still reading his mail. In Paul's mind, he wasn't writing Scripture. He was writing a piece of correspondence. And yet, his words, empowered by the Holy Spirit, continue to speak into the hearts and lives of people just like you and me.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Re-read verses 1 & 2.** Paul identifies himself as a "servant of Christ Jesus." If you were being completely honest, how would you identify yourself in relation to Jesus? As a casual acquaintance? A close friend? A complete stranger? How do you WISH you could identify yourself?
- **Re-read verses 3-6.** Do you consider yourself to be a partner with the mission and ministry of Prince of Peace? Why or why not? What "good work" has God begun in you?
- **Re-read verses 7 & 8.** As a prisoner, Paul was entirely dependent upon the generous support of others to survive, and the Philippians had been one of his most generous supporters. Is there someone in your life right now who needs your generous support? How can you carry Christ's love into their life? Are you feeling hopeless, helpless and/or lonely yourself? How can this small group support you with Christ's love?
- **Re-read verses 9-11.** Paul has a host of hopes and dreams for the Philippian faith community, and he regularly prays for them. What hopes and dreams do you have for the faith community at Prince of Peace? Paul specifically prays for growth in love, knowledge and understanding. In which of these three things do you need the most growth?

CHALLENGE: Write a letter (or send a text message) to somebody for whom you have a host of hopes and dreams. Share your heart with them.