

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



Shiny Things

September 30 & October 1, 2023

Sometimes God's story finds us and sometimes we seek it. The wonderful reality of God's story is that this precious story is for us. Now, what will we do with it, or... what will it do with us?

SCRIPTURE TEXT: MATTHEW 13:44-46

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

There are lots of shiny things in our world that are seeking our attention. But sometimes you stumble upon a shiny thing that changes your life. When you find it, like a treasure hidden in a field, you know it for the treasure that it is. The kingdom of God is like a treasure you didn't intend to find, but when you find it, you are all in. There are other times though, that we are seeking the kingdom of God "like a buyer of pearls who is always looking for that special one." And when you are actively seeking the shiny things, the pearl that is the kingdom of God, you will almost be blinded by the light that is everywhere.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time you went to a store for something specific but found something else that you didn't even know you "needed." Did you REALLY need that thing, or was it just a "shiny thing" that quickly lost its luster after you got it home?
- Share about a time you "stumbled upon" a "shiny thing" that changed your life (like Pastor Dean's example of the BBQ Smoker). How was it like a treasure you didn't intend to find? How did it change your life? How were others drawn in? How has it made an impact for the Kingdom of God?
- Share about a time that you were intentionally searching for meaning in your life "like a buyer of pearls who is always looking for that special one." What did you find? How has it brought meaning to your life? How has it made an impact for the Kingdom of God?
- In Pastor Dean's message, he lifted up Prince of Peace's Mission Outpost as an example of how, "when people are actively seeking the shiny things, the pearl that is the kingdom of God," it will "break through so bright and shiny that you'll almost be blinded by its brilliance." What are some other examples of this phenomenon that you find inspirational?
- ***Prince of Peace is ready to deploy you into the kingdom of God in ways that will change the world.*** How are you being called to invest your time, your experience, your ability, and/or your financial generosity to change the world?

CHALLENGE: This week, read and reflect on the words of Matthew 5:14-16 as you prayerfully consider your response to the challenge to "let your light shine."