

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



The Real Enemy

October 11, 2020

We seem to be at such enmity with one another, especially as we draw near to election day, but Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6 that our real enemy isn't flesh and blood. It isn't one another. Our real enemy is spiritual. Jesus says that our real enemy is a thief who seeks to kill and destroy. Jesus is our common ground, our source of unity in whom we can agree to disagree.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 10:1-10

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

When the curtain comes up on the new testament the enemy has yard signs in just about every lawn. Not really, but much of the world is designing life and relationship with the enemy's tools. And then, in the middle of flyover country as far as the Holy Land is concerned, a new candidate arrives on the scene. A candidate with a bold platform that isn't new, but is certainly out of style and nearly forgotten. This candidate, Jesus of Nazareth, says this, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

So Jesus starts moving around the area sharing this message of good news, this gospel, this freedom. And guess who decides to follow him? People like us. People who are stuck. People from all kinds of backgrounds. The people without a voice, without a seat at the table, people with unrealized hope. People for whom that enemy's tools don't work. The enemy noticed the crowds because it wasn't long until he weaseled his way onto Jesus' schedule to try and shut down the movement. He offers Jesus material security, immortality, and power. He offers Jesus the best the enemy's tools can get you. But Jesus, knowing it isn't the best there is, sends him packing and moves on to continue to show people there is a new world to be part of. A new Kingdom, if you will.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In what ways are you feeling stuck right now?
- What sort of emotions are you experiencing in this election season?
- How does this passage provide us hope in this season?
- In what way can we lean into this hope to help us get un-stuck?

APPLICATION: This week, take some time to self-reflect. In what area of your life can you take a step towards being un-stuck? Towards loving others more? Jesus is our common ground. Lean into that in this season.