

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

**NO
MATTER
WHAT...**

No Matter What ... Unify

October 22 & 23, 2022

The national trend of consciously and unconsciously associating almost exclusively with communities who share our values, beliefs and ways of life has impacted the church. Congregations have become an echo chamber in which we hear only our own perspective and find ourselves less and less tolerant of other perspectives. This raises the question, "What should be the foundation of our unity?"

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

As we move into chapter two of Paul's letter to the Philippians, it becomes clear that unity against external enemies isn't the Philippians' only challenge. They are also struggling with unity within the church itself. And so, as we read the opening verses of chapter two, we hear Paul appeal to the church to be unified in the face of internal division.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Re-read Philippians 2:1. The four questions Paul starts with aren't really questions at all. Paul knows that these things are true for the people in the church at Philippi.

- Are they true for you? Share a story about a time one or more of these things was especially true for you. Are they true for your small group and/or the community of believers at Prince of Peace? Share a story about a time one or more of these things was especially true in your small group and/or among the community of believers at Prince of Peace.
- Share a story about a time you raised your gaze and changed your focus from a petty argument to the magnitude of what God has done for you in Christ.

Re-read Philippians 2:2-4. In these verses, Paul tells the church at Philippi HOW to live into their identity as beloved children of God by living in unity.

- Tell about a time you were in conflict because you insisted on having your own way. Have you ever solved conflict through compromise? Share about that experience.
- In Pastor Jeff's sermon, he states: "with very few exceptions, most of the things we argue about in the church pale in importance compared to the need for unity." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

CHALLENGE: As often as possible, make a choice for the unity of the body of Christ over insisting that things be the way you want them to be.