

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Our Hope

October 25, 2020

If our “hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness,” why do we act as though hope hangs on the outcome of an election every four years? Hope is not some optimistic sense that things will turn out the way we want. Hope is a belief that something good is on the way, that God is at work beneath and beyond our current circumstances, delivering on the promises given.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ROMANS 15:7-13

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Paul is addressing a situation in Rome when both Jews and Gentiles were worshipping in the synagogue. The thing is the Gentiles and Jews are very different people from very different backgrounds worshipping Jesus. The Jews had been taught the Law from the time they were able to understand. They regulated their lives according to the strict interpretation of the Law. The Law prescribed that Jews were not to associate with Gentiles. And as far as The Gentiles were concerned, they weren't all that interested in associating with the Jews. When these two groups would meet to worship can you imagine the tension in the room and how conflict could arise? With the upcoming election there is seems to be more tension and conflict between those of us who share the love of Christ. The tensions are growing and the conflict is disturbing.

So where is our hope? Well here is how Paul handled this in our text. Paul asks them to put aside their differences to they can worship the same God, the same Jesus they all believe in! Paul calls them to reach out and welcome one another as Jesus welcomed them. Listening, understanding, staying true to God's purposes. This can only happen through hope. Hope in Christ. Paul turns the conversation to Hope. He encouraged the people to live into hope. Hope is trust and Hope is waiting. It is the same for us today. Hope is trusting in God who promises to be with us as we wait through our difficult circumstances, those times where we don't get the results we desire!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some things you hope for?
- When have you experienced true hope from God, versus optimism for things to work out?
- What can we learn from Paul through this section of Romans? How do we lean into this scripture?
- What tools can we use to remind us where our hope comes from in these challenging days?

APPLICATION: This week, spend some intentional time in prayer. Ask God to fill you with the hope that only God can provide. Rest in that. Embrace that. And then share that hope with someone else.