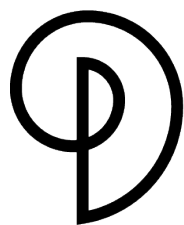


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Peace

*October 28 & 29, 2023*

Zacchaeus just might be the most misunderstood character in our scriptures. Assumptions about Zacchaeus have led us to place him in the “other” category: someone to look at and judge. But when we really do take a good hard look at Zacchaeus, behind the caricature, we begin to see how the spiritual fruit of peace is truly a gift. At times we are misunderstood, made into caricatures. Yet Jesus sees us for who we really are, worthy of peace. And in living that Spirit Life of peace, our generosity gives peace to others.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 19:1-10

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Luke is the only gospel to tell the Zacchaeus story. Matthew, Mark and John do not mention Zacchaeus, but that is not really surprising. The gospel of Luke has several clear themes. One theme that Luke highlights more than the other gospels is Jesus’ ministry to the outcasts, the marginalized, the ones that society shunned. In Luke’s gospel those groups include those who are afflicted with diseases, the handicapped, immigrants/aliens, refugees, young people, women, the poor, slaves, prostitutes, widows, the elderly, shepherds, tax collectors, Samaritans, and Gentiles: The ones who do not have peace. The crowd overlooked these people - but they were seen by Jesus.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you remember being taught about Zacchaeus when you were young? What lesson did you take away as the moral of the story? Can you still sing the song? What other Bible songs do you remember learning? Which one was your favorite and why?
- Share a story about a time that you were too preoccupied to see someone in need.
- Share about a time in your life when you were spiritually hungry. How or where did you find peace? On a scale of 1-10, how spiritually hungry do you feel today? What do you need to find peace today?
- Like the people in the crowd in this week’s Bible story, have you ever been frustrated by somebody challenging your assumptions? Share about that. How does Jesus challenge your assumptions?
- When you look around the crowd at Prince of Peace, who do you see? Do you feel like you belong at Prince of Peace, warts and all? Why or why not?

**CHALLENGE:** Spend some time prayerfully reflecting on these questions: When you look around the crowd at Prince of Peace, who do you not see? Is it time for a metaphorical kitchen remodel to make Prince of Peace a home for the spiritually seeking who are not here? How do we go about doing that? How can your generosity engage those who are not currently here with the restorative peace of Jesus?