

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Bear One Another's Burdens

October 30 & 31, 2021

All God's children got troubles, and sometimes those troubles are more than we can bear on our own. When we come alongside others with presence, prayer, love and support, burdens are lightened and so are hearts. It doesn't have to be a grand effort. Sometimes the simplest act at just the right time makes all the difference.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: GALATIANS 6:1-3

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

What do we do when someone in this congregation falls short? Or how about when someone is suffering, struggling with something that is weighing them down? How should we handle that? If we follow the pattern of our culture we'll judge them, gossip about them and shun them. And if they happen to be a public figure we'll smear their reputation all over social media. That's the way of the world. But Paul says that that is not the way of Jesus. Paul says that it is our responsibility to restore that person and to bear their burden with them. The meaning of the Greek word translated "restore" means to set a broken bone. In other words, when someone in this congregation is involved in something that is harmful to them, we are called to bring healing.

Paul doesn't just tell us to bear one another's burdens. He gives us some helpful advice. He says, "If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves." Another translation puts it this way, "If you think you are better than others, when you really aren't, you are wrong." In other words, I think Paul is warning us about thinking that we're somehow better than a brother or sister who is suffering or struggling with some sinful pattern of behavior. That's a problem, not only because it isn't true, but because it makes it nearly impossible for us to restore someone and truly bear their burden. That kind of superior attitude just shames others. Instead, Paul calls us to bear one another's burdens gently, with humility, knowing that we are every bit as vulnerable as anyone else.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when someone walked with you through a challenging time. What was that like?
- What is God teaching us in this passage?
- How might this passage change the way we think about the way we bear one another's burdens?
- What does it look like to truly carry one another's burdens?

APPLICATION: This week, consider who's burdens you can help carry. What would it take to show the world the kind of community God created us to be?