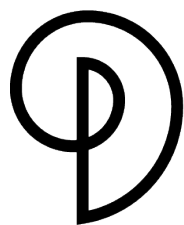


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



**NO
MATTER
WHAT...**

No Matter What ... Hope

November 5 & 6, 2022

None of us can earn God's love by being good, so then what? No matter what ... hope!

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Many people make the mistake of reading the Bible as though it were a set of rules and regulations, but when we look at the bible as a rule book we often miss out on the love of God. When we judge ourselves and others by the law, no one wins. In our reading today, Paul shares that it isn't what we do that brings God's love to us. It is all about what God does for us. Paul's focus is on God's unconditional love for us. He takes the whole ego structure of "doing good things" and blows it out of the water.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Re-read Philippians 3:4-6.** Do you have "impressive credentials" when it comes to trying to earn God's love? What are they? Read Exodus 20:1-17. Which of the Ten Commandments are you good at? Which do you struggle with? Who is your personal "do-gooder" role model? Share about the good things they do. Are they "good enough" to earn God's love?
- **Re-read Philippians 3:8-9** several times. Which word or phrase jumps out to you in these verses? How does that word or phrase give you hope?
- **Read this quote from Richard Rohr:** "You have a worthiness that is your deepest you. You can't gain it and you can't lose it because you are daughters and sons of God. And that is inherent, and the only difference in this room is between those of you who know and those of you who don't." On a scale from 1-10, how strongly do you "know" this about yourself? How does the knowledge that you are enough give you hope?
- **Re-read Philippians 3:10-11.** What do you need to die to in order to experience resurrection from the dead?

CHALLENGE: Spend some quiet time resting in God's unconditional love for you.