

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Forgive One Another

November 7 & 8, 2021

Wherever two or more are gathered, someone is going to get their toes stepped on! Forgiveness is the process of releasing our hurt and restoring our hearts and our relationships. Having been forgiven in Christ we are called and empowered to forgive one another.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Read the scripture text together as a group.

#### BACKGROUND INFO

I am certain that God cares deeply about healthy community, the kind of community where love flourishes. We were made for that kind of community. In this metaphor that I'm using, a healthy, lush, green lawn is that kind of community. That's the goal. That is God's desire for us here at Prince of Peace and in our families, schools and neighborhoods. In the same way that weeds so easily pop up in our gardens if left untended, bitterness can take root in a community and grow an ugly crop of broken relationships if not dealt with. Jesus once said that where two or more are gathered, he is present. While that's true, I have found that it's also true that where two or three are gathered, there's going to be conflict. Someone is going to get their feelings hurt. Someone is going to get angry. That's a given in human community. It's what we do about it that matters. Left untended, our hurt feelings, bruised egos and wounded hearts become bitter roots grow up into resentment and broken relationships that destroy community.

So what do you do when weeds grow up in your garden? No, you don't throw weedkiller down. That's bad for the environment. You yank them out by the roots. And what does that look like in community? It looks like forgiveness. Paul put it this way, *"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."* That wasn't a suggestion; it was a command. Why? Because Paul knew how important healthy community was to God, and how important it is to us, and what a powerful witness it is to the world.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when someone forgave you. 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 forgive one another?
- What about forgiveness is most challenging for you?

**APPLICATION:** This week, pray for the person that has wounded you. Ask God to meet you in that discomfort and see how prayer changes hearts and opens doors.