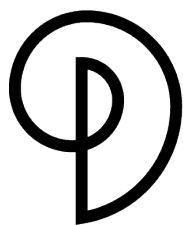


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

**NO
MATTER
WHAT...**

No Matter What ... Focus

November 19 & 20, 2022

"Life isn't about being right. It's about loving well."

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 4:2-9

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

St. Paul could have written those words, "Life isn't about being right. It's about loving well." In fact, he says something very much like that in this week's scripture reading as we conclude our series on Paul's letter to the Philippians. If you've been following along in this series, you'll know that the unity of the body of Christ has been one of Paul's primary themes. And in this week's reading, we catch one of the reasons why.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Re-read Philippians 4:2-3. There's a lot we don't know about this passage, but here's what we do know: two beloved children of God were at odds with one another, and their conflict was disturbing the community, hindering their witness, and breaking Paul's heart.

- Share about a time when you were involved in a conflict that disturbed your community and/or hindered your witness. Whose heart did it break? Was it ultimately resolved? If so, how? Are you currently involved in such a conflict? How can you move toward reconciliation? What kingdom values do you value above being right?

Re-read Philippians 4:4-7. Paul is now in the home stretch of his letter and, as he so often does, Paul closes with a rapid-fire list of brief instructions.

- **Rejoice.** How do you celebrate God's goodness on your own? In community? Can you rejoice and complain at the same time? Explain your answer.
- **Be considerate.** When have you chosen kindness/gentleness instead of the expected response: retaliation?
- **Choose prayer over worry.** Share about a time when prayer didn't change your circumstances, but instead changed you. What change did you experience?

Re-read Philippians 4:8-9. What we focus on matters. It profoundly impacts how we experience life and how we respond to it.

- Share about a time that focusing on a kingdom value impacted your experience/response in a positive way.

CHALLENGE: Focus on being loving, just as God loves you. Focus on letting go of your worries into the care of the One who cares for you.