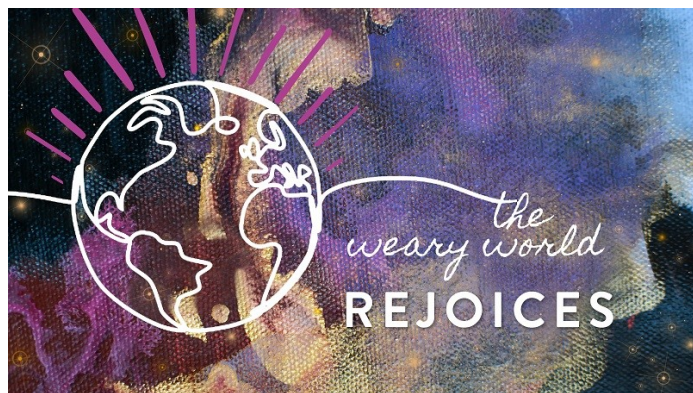


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE  
OF PEACE  
Called to Connect



## We are Weary

November 25 & 26, 2023

As Advent begins, we start by acknowledging the weariness, grief, rage, and hopelessness we carry—and we also affirm that we are made for joy. Sometimes, however, weariness can harden us and prevent us from living fully. Like the psalmist, let us ask, “how long?” and plead for restoration.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 1:1-23, PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

We start the Advent season with Zechariah and Elizabeth. They have battled infertility and have lived many years. Perhaps they feel the weight of hopes and dreams unattained. The angel comes to Zechariah with a promise of good news, but Zechariah can't fully receive it. Sometimes weariness can harden us and prevent us from living fully. Let us acknowledge the ways we, too, are hardened by disbelief.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The title of this sermon series was inspired by the song “O, Holy Night.” Which Christmas song inspires you? Which lyrics, specifically, are most meaningful to you and why?
- On a scale of 1-10, how weary are you feeling as we begin this Advent season? What factors cause weariness in general? What factors are contributing to YOUR sense of weariness?
- **Advent is a season of tension, where all kinds of feelings and emotions are held together at the same time.** Besides weariness, what other feelings and emotions are you holding in this season? As you notice what you're feeling right now, can you feel the tension?
- **Zechariah and Elizabeth were dealing with the reality of unfulfilled dreams.** What unfulfilled dream are you dealing with? Share about a time that you cried out “how long?” like the Psalmist in Psalm 80.
- **The angel Gabriel says: God is on the move, making a way where there is no way.** When has God made the impossible possible in your life? How do you sense God on the move in your life now?
- **The season of Advent announces that rejoicing is on the way.** Share about some joyful things that you are looking forward to.

**CHALLENGE:** This week, continue to wrestle with the Advent question “How does a weary world rejoice?” As you do: embrace the silence, practice gratitude, commit to community, and focus on the joy of Christ’s coming.