

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Longing for Peace

December 6, 2020

God knows how we long for peace. God planted the yearning within us. And so, long-ago God promised us peace and God delivered on that promise. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, the one who has come to rule the world with truth and grace and love. Wherever truth and grace and love rule, there is peace.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ISAIAH 9:6-7

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Peace – the wholeness, completeness, contentment and well-being for which we long – isn't something we need to pursue or earn. It is the gift that we've been given through Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Which, of course, raises the question, "How do we experience that peace?" And Paul gives us the answer in this verse from Romans 15, *"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."*

How do we experience that peace? Through faith. By trusting. Faith doesn't earn us the gift of peace. This isn't some kind of magical transaction in which God determines whether we have faith, or have enough faith, and then dispenses peace to us. We experience the profound peace of Christ when we trust that what God has promised is true. We experience peace when we entrust ourselves to God's promises. That we're loved beyond measure, perfectly imperfect in God's eyes. That we are forgiven beyond reason. That we are never alone. That God is always at work for good in our lives. That we are connected to God and one another in ways we cannot fully fathom. That all of creation and history is heading somewhere. Friends, when we entrust ourselves to God, when we believe these things, which are the heart the Gospel, to be true and true for us, we experience peace. How could you not?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when you felt at peace. What was happening?
- How have you found peace in 2020, a year full of anything but peace?
- What resonates with you most from the passage in Isaiah?
- How can we be peacemakers, sharing the gift of peace with others?

APPLICATION: This week, practice dwelling in God's Word through *Lectio Divina*. What is God speaking to you during this sacred reading time? How is He revealing His peace in your life?