

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



We Can Choose a Better Way

December 10 & 11, 2022

God's vision of hope and wholeness has been passed from generation to generation, from each person to the next. Each of us plays a significant part in that. One day, how we've impacted the lives of others could wind up on our grave marker. So, what will yours say?

SCRIPTURE TEXT: MATTHEW 1:18-25

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

As far as Joseph knows, his new wife has been unfaithful to him and broken their marriage contract. And yet, he chooses not to publicly disgrace or humiliate her. This interruption in his life becomes a holy invitation when the angel comes to him in a dream and says, "Do not be afraid." When he awakes, Joseph once again has the courage to choose a better way. He chooses to stay with Mary, to become an adoptive parent. He chooses peace over violence, grace over condemnation. Like Mary, he chooses to say "yes."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Grave markers are like the title of a book which contains a birth date, a death date, and what families have decided is essential for the rest of us to know about their loved one. What are three words you hope will someday appear on your grave marker?
- *"An important step toward more life and aliveness is to shift our perspective from interruptions to invitations."* Share about a chapter of your story that you saw as a massive interruption: hopes that were abandoned, dreams that were dashed, plans that were put on hold. Have you been able to shift your perspective about this chapter? If so, how? What invitation arose out of the interruption?

As we choose a better way, three important questions will guide us:

- What are you being called to generate, to bring forth?
- Who are the spiritual mentors who planted the seeds for what is now emerging for you?
- What seeds are you planting now for the next generation?

CHALLENGE: Use the Five Day Devo/Resource to guide you through the process of choosing a better way. Seeing interruptions as invitations in our lives changes us. And as we learn to tell our stories, we can impact future generations.