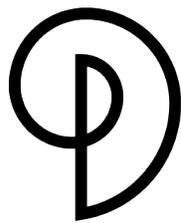
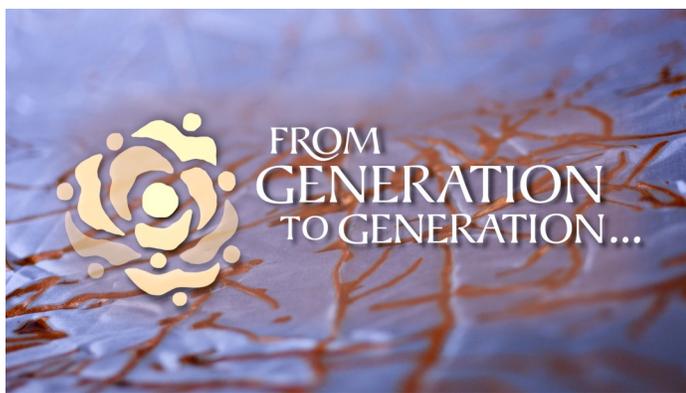


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



We See God In Each Other

December 17 & 18, 2022

In just a few days we're going to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Could it be that God chose an ordinary peasant girl to bear God's son as a way of daring us to believe that we all bear the divine? We all bear the image of God. The question is, will we have eyes to see it? Hearts to welcome it? Arms to embrace it? Oh, how different our world would be!

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 1:39-43

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

We can assume that Mary arrived at Elizabeth's home unannounced. But Elizabeth, who was also with child, didn't just welcome Mary in; she was filled with the Holy Spirit and blessed Mary while the child in her womb leapt and kicked with joy. Elizabeth saw God at work in her cousin. She named it, celebrated it and blessed it. And Mary did the same for Elizabeth. As they beheld one another they didn't just see a cousin; they saw God and God at work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How good are you at following directions? Share a story about a time that you did follow directions and it saved you from a headache or heartache. Then share a story about a time that you WISH you had followed directions.
- We often skip the essential direction found at the beginning of our scriptures. Read Genesis 1:27. How different would our world be if, when we looked at one another, we saw not how different we are, but how we all bear the image of God?
 - Share about a time you misjudged someone because you were focused on an external factor that differed from you.
 - Share about a time that you were able to clearly see the image of God in somebody.
 - Share about a time that somebody saw you as "made in the image of God and of infinite worth." How were you impacted by that great gift?
- When is the last time you "leapt with joy" (literally or figuratively)? Share the circumstances that led to your experience of joyfulness.

CHALLENGE: Spend some quiet time each day reflecting on how you see God's image all around you.