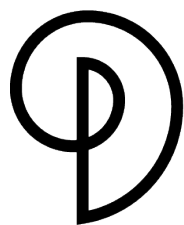


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Extraordinary Love

February 11 & 12, 2023

God's extraordinary love for all creation is revealed in the incarnation (John 3:16) and the crucifixion. As Jesus said, the greatest love is laying down one's life for one's friends. In this season of "sappy" love, marked by cards, candy and roses, Jesus shows us what real love looks like, and then challenges us to love one another in the same extraordinary way.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 15:9-15

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

One of the primary ways to know and to experience God's love is to see how Jesus loved. Today we will focus on Jesus' words in John 15 about how Jesus demonstrated his great love for his disciples. This kind of love is a perfect reflection of how God loved Jesus. And Jesus is encouraging the disciples to experience a new way of loving others and, more importantly, a new way to receive love from God. This new way invites the disciples, and us, to remain in God's love so we will always be present to experience God's extraordinary love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time you experienced the extraordinary majesty of a beautiful sunset or moonrise.
- On a scale of "love 'em!" to "hate 'em!", how do you feel about romantic movies? What about them do you love/hate the most? Which romantic movie do you love/hate the most?
- "Jesus was lovingly present with his followers, and God's love flowed naturally from Jesus to all he encountered." Share about a time you followed Jesus' example and loved somebody with compassion. Now share about a time you followed Jesus' example and loved somebody with instruction or even a rebuke.
- Re-read John 15:9-15. Share with one another any words or phrases that stand out to you, or any images that come to your mind.
- How have you experienced God's love today?

CHALLENGE: Every day this week, reflect on these words by Sarah Bessey: "You have nothing to prove. You have nothing to earn. Love has happened and it is happening and it will happen. It is kind and patient towards you. You're already so loved, you aren't earning a breath of love or tenderness more than what you already have just by breathing — just by existing, just by being here in the wonder. You may feel it or not. You are so loved."