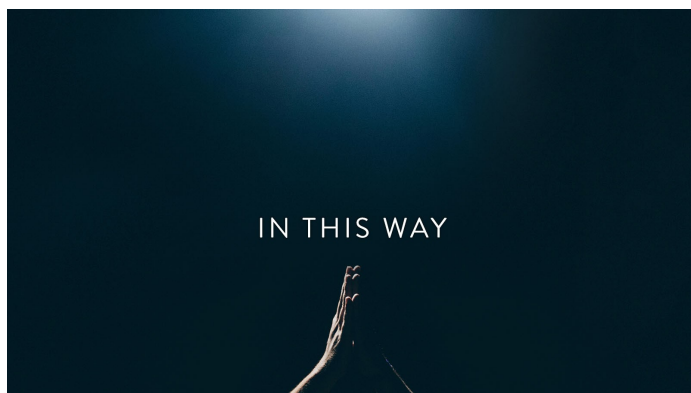


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## In This Way ... Open

February 17 & 18, 2024

Many of us feel inadequate in our prayer life; we worry that we will get prayer “wrong.” Throughout this seven-week series, you will be guided through many types of prayer. To pray “In This Way” gives us many paths of entering a holy conversation with God by following the example of Jesus.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 3:21-23A

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Jesus comes to the waters of baptism, along with “all the people” and is baptized with them. That act of baptism moves Jesus to prayer. Jesus prays, and his prayer creates an openness to both God’s revelation and affirmation. In this way, may our prayers open us to God’s revelation and affirmation in our lives.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time in your life when you found yourself asking these questions: *Who am I now? Where am I going? What is going to happen?* How did you find answers to those questions? Was prayer part of the process? Why or why not?
- Re-read Luke 3:21-23a. What do you think Jesus was praying for in Luke’s baptism story? Have you ever prayed “In This Way?” What revelation and/or affirmation did you receive? What did you do as a result of the revelation/affirmation received?
- What do you think God has next for you? How does knowing that you are a beloved child of God make a difference as you prepare to take the first step towards what’s next?
- Have you ever treated prayer like a vending machine? If so, share about that experience. Have you ever prayed with specificity - pleading for your desired result? If so, did you get your desired result?
- Have you ever been “open through prayer” and discovered that God had something in mind for you or your situation that was different than you expected? Share about that.

**CHALLENGE:** *You are God’s beloved child with whom God takes great delight. Did you hear that? You are God’s beloved child with whom God takes great delight. Do you feel it? You are God’s beloved child with whom God takes great delight. Oh yes you are. That’s who you are. The wilderness is real... but those words are even more real. You are God’s beloved child with whom God takes great delight. Open yourself through prayer to that.*