

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?

March 11 & 12, 2023

Life with Jesus isn't "if I do this then Jesus will do that." Instead, life with Jesus is "because I'm forgiven, loved and cherished, I can try, and fail, and try again." And that is good news indeed!

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 6:43-49

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans: *I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.* That's the reality of life. And it's a reality that Jesus addresses in today's scripture reading. These verses from Luke's Gospel are the conclusion of Jesus' great Sermon on the Plain. Jesus is focused on our spiritual health. We can think about these verses as a spiritual checkup.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share a story about a time you didn't do what you knew was best for you.
- Share a story about a time you wanted to do what is right, but instead did what is wrong.
- Share an example of a time that "what you said flowed from what was in your heart" in a positive way. Then, share an example of a time that "what you said flowed from what was in your heart" in a negative way.
- If you think about this week's scripture passage as a spiritual checkup, what does it reveal about your spiritual health?
- Think about the words you've used today. On a scale of 1-10, how proud of them are you? Which ones would you take back or change if you could? Which ones brought you (or others) joy/comfort/encouragement/etc.?
- From Pastor Jeff's sermon: *When we come face-to-face with our inability to obey Jesus commands, we realize how desperately we need the Spirit of God to be active in our lives.* When have you found this to be true in your life?

CHALLENGE: Give yourself a little spiritual checkup this week. Pay attention to the words you speak. Be honest...what do they say about the health of your heart? And how about your actions? How do they align with Jesus' commands as best you understand them? Whatever you find amiss, confess it, know that you're forgiven, and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to be at work in you, shaping your heart and your life more and more into the likeness of Christ.