

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE  
OF PEACE  
Called to Connect



## We Are ... Thriving

April 6 & 7, 2024

We are moving with a deepened sense of identity—that we are spirited, creative, and connected, called to be present, grateful, generous, and missional with our lives. We're exploring what it means to intentionally live into this particular series of life rhythms, which help us bring some good to each moment, something better to each day, and our best to each other as we encounter the world around us.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: MATTHEW 11:28-30, JOHN 10:7-10, 1 PETER 2:9-10

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

As we move through the season of Easter, the image of an empty tomb becomes an open door that leads to something more, something new and different, something meaningful and life-giving, something deeply hopeful, something thriving! There is movement in all of this. It's the movement from the darkness of the grave to the bright sunlight of a sun-drenched new day of life, the movement from where we've been to where we're going, the movement from despair to hope, from fear to courage, from isolation to connection, from weakness to strength, from doubt to insight, from merely surviving to truly thriving.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ***We're in a brand-new worship series called "Thriv'era." It's a fusion of two familiar words: 'thrive' and 'era.'*** Think of two words that you could combine together to describe something important to or about you. Share why you chose those two words and how they work together in your life.
- ***Thriving does not happen apart from the challenges of life; but rather, thriving takes place amid challenges.*** Have you found this to be true in your life? If so, share about that experience. If applicable, share how it moved you in one or more of the ways described in the "Background Info" section above.
- Spend some time wrestling with the questions that Pastor Paul Gauche suggests the disciples faced in the days following Jesus' resurrection: ***What does Jesus' resurrection mean? How does resurrection inspire us to engage in God's work here and now? How does it inform the way we live as a community? How does the resurrection change you?*** (Re-read 1 Peter 2:9-10 for inspiration.)

**INVITATION:** *How would your life be just a little different if you made a fresh commitment to be the hands and feet of the resurrected Jesus in the world?* Throughout the next seven weeks, we will be exploring what it means to intentionally live into a particular series of life rhythms that can help us do this. The expanded small group study resources will guide us through the process step by step. Invite friends to join you on this journey toward the thriving and abundant life that Jesus both promises (John 10:10) and models!