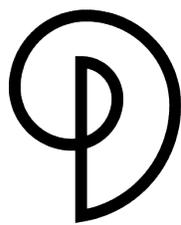


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Why are you looking for the living among the dead?

April 8 & 9, 2023

The Good News of Easter is that in the end, all will be well. In the end, God's love triumphs and so do we. And by "we" I mean all of humanity. Resurrection means hopelessness has no hope of taking up permanent residence in our lives.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 24:1-12

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The Good News of Easter changes how we live now. St. Paul put it this way in his letter to the Corinthians: "So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever." That is the Good News of Easter, the Good News of resurrection at work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Good News of Easter proclaims that no matter how dark the forest, no matter how wicked the witch, no matter how big the giant, in the end all will be well.

- What is your favorite Fairy Tale? How does it end "happily ever after?"
- Share a story from your life when you traveled through a dark forest and reached "happily ever after" on the other side. Are you currently in a dark forest? Share about that.
- Tell about a time you have:
 - worked for peace and justice in the world, even when evil seems to be winning the day.
 - sought to steward well this planet God has given us, even though it seems that Mother Nature is under constant attack.
 - worked for reconciliation among all people, even when it feels that we are more divided than ever.
 - fought for the marginalized and the voiceless, even though it seems that those in power are less and less in touch with those who lack it.
- In what other ways can you continue (or begin) to do one or more of the above?

CHALLENGE: Dare to believe that because of Easter, the story isn't over. Dare to believe that in the end, we all live happily ever after. Dare to believe that God has not given up on us. And in believing these things, vow to never give up.