

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE  
OF PEACE  
Called to Connect



## First, God, Only

July 1 & 2, 2023

The first commandment tells us who God is: God is a loving, generative Creator who calls us into a relationship of focused love and trust in God. It also tells us who we are: people who have been called into newness of life with one another.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: EXODUS 20:1-3

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

This week, we are focusing on the first commandment - “the first and greatest commandment” - as Jesus called it. And this is important because, in a very real way, commandments 2 through 10 all build on the first commandment: “No other gods, only me.” If our understanding of God is as one who knows us, loves us, treasures us, and guides us, then we will come to understand these words as life-giving, sustaining, and healing.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ***The 10 Commandments are loving and hope-filled words of guidance and direction given to people who had no idea where they were going or how they would get there.*** In his sermon, Pastor Paul shared some of his “top-ten-ish, 10-commandment-y list of travel wisdom. What advice would you add to his list? Share the story that helped you gain that wisdom. Did you have to learn it “the hard way?”
- ***No other gods, only me.*** What other “gods” are you tempted to put first in your life? How do you recognize when you are doing that? How do you re-prioritize God when you notice that you have given your trust, allegiance, or commitment to something else?
- ***The words of the first commandment are a bold reminder that God is revealed at every turn if we have eyes to see and ears to hear.*** Share about a recent and/or especially powerful time that God was revealed to you.
- ***When we hear God say, “I am with you, I am for you, I am yours,” it’s natural to want to respond in love.*** How have you responded in love to God’s faithfulness revealed in the first commandment?

**CHALLENGE:** Sit with the first commandment by giving thoughtful contemplation to the questions posed at the end of Pastor Paul’s sermon: What images of God can/should you hold on to and which do you need to let go? How has God rescued you from something that was keeping you back or holding you down? How can you respond in love? Then, make this your daily mantra: “First, God, Only.”