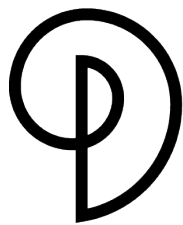
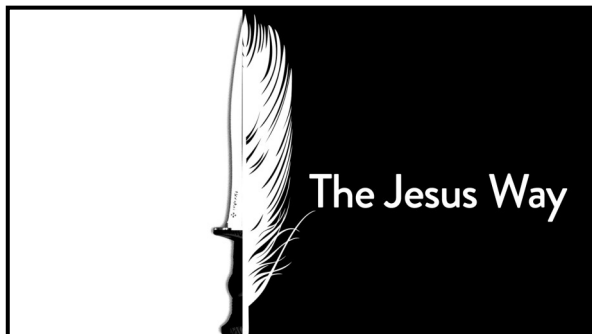


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE  
OF PEACE  
Called to Connect



## The Jesus Way | New

June 15 & 16, 2024

Peter has been sent by the Holy Spirit to make disciples of all nations. However, he has been raised in a culture that creates great distinction between Jews and the rest of the nations. It is a very confusing time, but God makes a way by making all things new. Even Peter. How does God need to make us new?

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 10:1-17, 34-48

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Peter was a first century Jew - a good Jew - a kosher Jew. Everything he ate - everything he touched - every house he entered - every piece of clothing he wore was approved of by his religion. And if anything was out of place, he observed ritual cleansing to bring himself back into adherence to the laws and traditions of Judaism. Now place that up against the very last thing that Jesus told his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew: Go and make disciples of all nations. How are you supposed to make disciples of a bunch of people whose houses you are forbidden to enter? How are you supposed to break bread with a bunch of people who have completely different dietary habits and rituals? Something has to give – and it does. God provides a way.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share a story about a deep cultural or traditional tie you have with food, clothing, or ritual.
- **God says to Peter: Hey! There is a new vision. There is a new way to see the world and, if you are going to be a blessing, the distinction that made you a different people but also made you an exclusive group – a clique – has got to change. We are about something much bigger now.** Share a story about a time you were excluded from an exclusive group. Have you ever been in a clique that excluded others? How does it feel to be on either side of this division?
- **God had to repeat the vision 3 times before Peter finally got the message.** When have you been slow to get a message that God was sending to you? When have you been especially resistant to a necessary change? Are you currently resisting a necessary change in your life? Share about that.
- **God's call for us is to be distinctively Inclusive.** How do we begin to see what new thing God is doing? How is God making Prince of Peace new? How is God making YOU new?
- **Both Peter and Cornelius come to understand that God was doing a new thing and they responded with serious intent to the Great Commission.** How can you respond with serious intent to the Great Commission? Who can you invite to church with you? How else can you “Go, make disciples”?

**CHALLENGE: Open your dining room table - or your heart - to someone you would have never thought possible!**