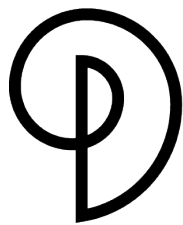
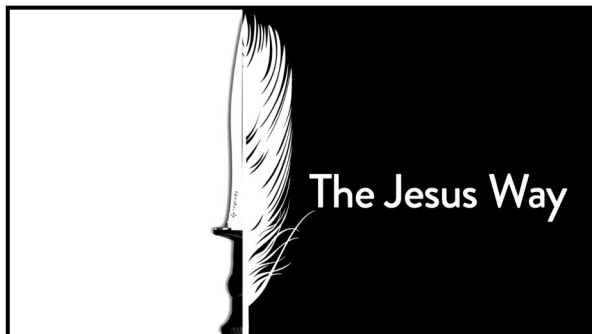


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



The Jesus Way | Reveal

June 29 & 30, 2024

God is not separate; God is revealed in our lived reality, every moment of every day. How is our gift of faith, given to us by God, revealing God in our lives today?

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ROMANS 1:1-17

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Our scripture starts with a creation story where God creates and, at every step of the way, God calls it good. But it feels like it goes downhill after that. Humanity messes up. So the Creator calls a family, that becomes a nation, to a new way of living. A way of living that holds up to the original claim of goodness. Sometimes this nation succeeds, but often times it fails. Time and time again God simply says, "I will be your God and you will be my people." Even—and maybe even especially—when we don't live up to the good name we were given. So what's the catch. There has to be a catch. Right?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was your original answer to the question posed at the beginning of Pastor Paul's message: ***Would you rather be a baby kitten or a baby monkey?*** Why did you choose that option? If you could be ANY animal, what would you choose? Explain your answer.
- Share about a time when you ***lived up to the good name you were given.*** Share about a time when you didn't.
- ***"I will be your God and you will be my people." And here is where we might think there is a catch. It sounds like some kind of transaction is going to take place. But in each instance of this phrase, there isn't an "if" catch.*** Have you ever fallen victim to something that seemed too good to be true? What was the "catch"? As a group, brainstorm examples of transactional interactions we experience regularly. Does your faith ever feel transactional? Explain.
- Read Acts 9:1-19a. Do you or anyone you know have a "conversion story"? Share about those powerful moments of encountering Christ in a life-changing way. Is your experience more like what Luther describes as ***"a daily dying and rising with Jesus"***? How, through faith, do you see God revealed in many ways each and every day?

CHALLENGE: *Be a baby kitten. Decide every day to live by faith – not in order to earn salvation, but to respond to God's saving action towards you. Because God has called out to you, "I love you," seek every day to respond with "I love you, too."*