

RESTORED

A 4-week journey exploring our vision
of a world restored with grace and peace

JOURNEY GUIDEBOOK





HOW TO DO THE JOURNEY

The RESTORED Journey is a four-week experience exploring the vision of Prince of Peace.

Each week follows the same three-part rhythm:

WORSHIP ON THE WEEKEND

Each Journey week begins here. In worship, you'll be introduced to a new focus area of our vision, provoked by art and music, encouraged by preaching to live out our vision, and will join others in giving praise to God. It's important. Be there!

GO TO YOUR JOURNEY GROUP

In this fun and relational environment, you'll share what you're learning, dig deeper into scripture and conversation, and strengthen relationships.

DO YOUR CHALLENGE

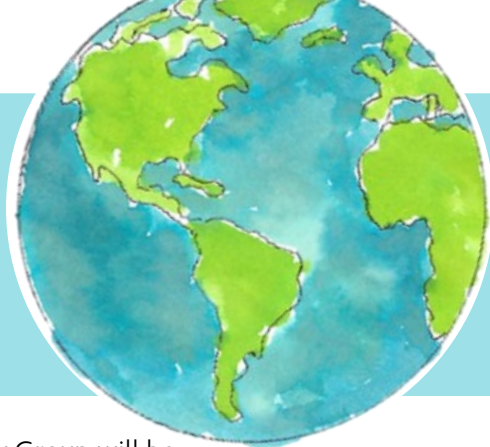
At the end of each Journey Group, you'll receive a challenge to live out the week's focus area. Do the challenge during the week and record what happens in the guide. You'll also see some family challenges and social media prompts (if that's your thing) to consider doing as a way to engage more fully as a community.

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GROUND RULES



Over the next few weeks your Journey Group will be encouraged to get pretty vulnerable with each other, so it's probably a good idea for everyone to be on the same page.

First of all, know that your host is simply a fellow learner, not a Bible expert or professional guru. While your host can be your contact for finding more information, the discussion and learning in the group is everyone's responsibility.

Second, to help keep the group experience a safe, healthy way to grow, here are some ground rules:

1. **Be a great listener.**
Make eye contact. Don't interrupt.
2. **Be real.**
Honesty is the best policy.
Be your authentic self and trust each other.
3. **Keep it confidential.**
Gossip is lame.
4. **Share examples, not advice.**
Better to hear, "Oh, I experienced something like that once..." versus "Listen, here's what you need to do."
5. **Show up.**
Honor the commitment you made to the group.
6. **Unplug.**
This is a great opportunity to be present with others.
Don't let phones be a distraction.

INTRODUCTION

***Read this section before your group meets for the first time.**

- According to the World Bank, 50% of the global population lives on less than \$2.50 a day.
- 80% of the global population lives on less than \$10 a day or roughly \$300 a month.
- Of 162 countries covered by the Institute For Economics and Peace's latest study, only 11 are conflict free. (war, civil war, rebel groups, etc.)
- According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are currently 892 active hate groups operating within the United States, and Ohio is ranked #7 for the most active groups within a state. What's even more frightening is the reality that this number has risen by 14% nationwide since 2014.
- The city of Chicago experienced 762 homicides in 2016, the most in 19 years.
- It is estimated that 18.5% of people in Hamilton County are food insecure, and 21% of children in Hamilton County go to bed hungry each night.
- According to the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati, 400,000 people in our city are illiterate.
- 3.5 million Americans experience homelessness each year, and according to government reports, Cincinnati has roughly 8,000 people experiencing homelessness each year.

Let these facts sink in for a moment...

It's depressing, isn't it? There is no escaping the reality that our world is not as it should be. Simply turn on the evening news or scroll through Facebook and it doesn't take long for us to realize that our world is filled with pain and suffering. Poverty, hunger, terrorism, war, disease, injustice, corruption, pollution...all point to the broken and fragmented condition of our world.

What breaks your heart? Where is the world's brokenness most evident to you? Use the space below to record your thoughts:

In a world filled with pain and suffering, it's tempting to simply try to look away or ignore the brokenness around us. The enormous problems within our culture can leave us feeling numb and paralyzed. Over time, we also become consumed with our own daily responsibilities and lives. We often throw ourselves into our studies, our careers, our families, and the endless pursuit of happiness and "the good life"yet even these pursuits can leave us sensing that something is not as it should be. We can work too many hours, fill our lives with too many distractions, our schedules with too many events, and yet we simply press on at 'record pace' trying to 'keep things together'.

Do you ever feel this way? Do you ever sense that something is missing from your life? Use the space below for self-reflection about when this happens for you and how this feels:

It's really easy to become cynical and give up on the idea that our world can actually improve. Sometimes it's hard to see how our lives could be any different or how they could make a difference. When this happens we often lose sight of a guiding vision for our lives. This isn't intentional, but over time, our focus can become narrow and we put our lives on "default mode". When this happens, we quit dreaming big dreams and asking big questions. We even find ourselves thinking that the world is forsaken, lost, or hopeless.

The Bible is filled with examples of our brokenness. It begins in Genesis with the Garden of Eden, a place of peace and prosperity for all creatures, yet we quickly see how sin and brokenness enter the world. The temptation to be in control and in charge leads to destruction. From Cain's jealousy of his brother Abel, to the Kings of Israel who govern with self-interest, to the exploitation of the poor and oppressed throughout each generation, we encounter in the Bible a world that is foreign, yet so familiar to our own.

*But at the same time
scripture shows us that....*

God does not 'throw in the towel of defeat', turn a blind eye, or give up hope. From the prophets like Isaiah who point to *a feast of rich food for all peoples...where there is an abundance for all people*, to the Revelation of John which speaks about *the New Jerusalem where God makes all things new*, we find that God does not give up on us or the world. Despite the violence, oppression, the forgetfulness of humanity, and our wandering nature, the scriptures show us how God continues to find new ways to focus our attention towards a more beautiful reality.





Here are just a few of the many passages throughout scripture that speak to God's vision for the world...

From the prophet Isaiah, we read about God's desire for all people to come together around one table...

*On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain. **Isaiah 25: 6-9***

In Jesus' first recorded 'sermon', we hear him echo the prophet as he announces the focus of his ministry...

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'
Luke 4: 14-21

In the many letters of Paul, we are reminded that despite our pain, God's redemptive work renews our weary world...

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

We are even encouraged to join Christ in pursuing the ministry of healing and reconciliation....

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Even the Revelation of John casts the vision of a world being restored with grace & peace...

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' **Revelation: 21:1-5**

This new reality is made most clear to us through the life and ministry of Jesus, who came into the midst of the world's story to live and love in a way that redeems our brokenness and reveals God's heart.

Transforming water to wine Giving sight to the blind

Healing the sick Calming the storm

Feeding the hungry multitudes Welcoming the stranger

Raising of Lazarus Conquering the grave....

Again and again, Jesus reveals to us God's vision of **a world restored with grace & peace**. From his opening sermon in his hometown synagogue to his rising from the grave on the third day, the ministry of Jesus was guided by a vision of restoration, grace and peace. At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus commissions his disciples to take up the work he began and encourages them to be guided by the same vision.

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28:16-20***

So there we have it! Easy enough to understand, right? God not only redeems our brokenness through the death and resurrection of Jesus, but also invites us to join Christ in the pursuit of restoring the world. The grace we receive, we are invited to extend. The peace God offers, we are called to share.

So when your alarm clock went off this morning your first thought of the day was ***“Gee, I can’t wait to get out of bed and begin restoring the world with grace & peace!”*** right?!?

And as you ate breakfast thing morning you made a “restoration to-do list” filled with things like: **Forgive my spouse, extend grace to my co-workers, volunteer, plant a tree, clean up trash at the Little Miami River after work, buy less and give more, tell someone about Jesus today....**

If you are anything like me, then the answer is probably no. Let’s face it – it’s easy to get distracted from what matters most. In a world where so many things compete for our attention, we often lose sight of God’s vision for our lives. It doesn’t take long for different goals, dreams, and visions to guide our decision-making and captivate our attention. **What competes for your attention and energy on a regular basis?**

The reality is we need help staying focused.

Think about it this way: we all know what it’s like to have a vision for our lives of health and vitality. Maybe this year you even made a new year’s resolution to ‘become the healthiest version of yourself’, or maybe you started this year with a vision of ‘obtaining more financial peace and balance.’ Just imagine – *you wake up each day feeling ready and energized for all the tasks that lie ahead. You love the way you look and feel in your clothes, and you’re less concerned about things like your blood pressure and cholesterol.* Isn’t it a beautiful sight? *At the end of each month you feel less stressed because you didn’t overspend. You’re able to watch a ‘rainy day’ fund grow over-time and you feel slightly more prepared for any unexpected emergencies that lie ahead.*

But here’s the hard truth – without specific areas to focus our energy and efforts, even the most glorious of visions easily turn into nothing more than nice thoughts and dreams, hence the reality that only about 9% of New Year’s resolutions are kept!

So what makes the difference? Over and again, research has shown that progress is made when people focus on the specifics.

VISION: A healthy life!

FOCUS ON: Eating in moderation, exercising, prioritizing sleep, drinking lots of water...

VISION: Financial peace!

FOCUS ON: Writing a budget, tracking spending, packing a lunch, snapping a rubber band when we feel the urge to spend....

It's not rocket science, but it's still not easy. How can we, as disciples of Jesus who live in a highly distracted world, stay focused on God's vision? You might even be thinking, *'Come on now, can God really use me, my family, or even our church to help restore the world with grace & peace?'*

Well the answer to that is....OF COURSE! God has always used "the imperfect" to accomplish amazing things!

Welcome to the RESTORED Journey. Over the next few weeks, we will zero in on the following four areas that guide our ministry at Prince of Peace and keep us focused on seeking God's vision:

Week 1: Discipleship Formation

Week 2: Building a Culture of Grace and Peace

Week 3: Relational Mission

Week 4: Investing in God's Vision

Now you're ready to meet with your group! Don't forget to attend worship—there's a place in this booklet to record your notes during each week's sermon.



WEEK ONE

Discipleship

Formation

Prince of Peace is committed to the formation of disciples for the sake of the gospel and the world.

We believe God empowers all people with a vocational calling.

We will cultivate opportunities that equip disciples and raise up leaders within our congregation and the greater church.

Week 1 Scripture



Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.”

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

[illegible]



1 HOST, START READING OUT LOUD. Hi, everyone. Welcome to week one of our Journey group. This journey group is where we'll process much of the RESTORED Journey. You can expect this group time to be filled with lots of conversation, questions, scripture reading and prayer. Each week we will also be given a challenge to live out our focus for the week. The point of this time is to grow together and build relationships as we more fully understand God's vision. The group time won't always feel perfect. It might take a little getting used to or someone might talk too much or there could be awkward silences. But, in the end, we're certain it'll be a good time. So, to start this thing off right, let's go around the group, and everyone share your name and your favorite thing to learn about/study (cars, quilting, history, sports, cooking, etc.). Also, **share one reason that you are willing to spend the next four weeks exploring our vision of a world restored with grace & peace.**

Hopefully by now everyone has had a chance to read the introduction to the journey in the beginning of this guide. **Did everyone have a chance to read the intro?** (If not, everyone take a few moments to look it over!)

2 NEW READER: The intro mentioned the importance of focusing our energy on specific actions in order for our vision to become a reality. Over the next few weeks we will be studying four areas that help us keep our sight on God's vision of restoration for the world. To get our wheels turning a little bit: **what comes to mind when you imagine a world restored with grace & peace? What does the world look like?** (be specific)

Did you mention things like world peace, the end of hunger, clean water for all people, and the eradication of ultra-poverty? Did you lift up things like relationships being mended or even perfectly behaved children who regularly eat brussel sprouts without complaining? A world where all people can live in peace and prosperity without fear of oppression? It's a beautiful vision isn't it?

Someone grab a Bible and read: **Revelation 22: 1-6**

3 AFTER THE PASSAGE IS READ, SOMEONE ELSE CONTINUE READING:

In this passage, we encounter God's vision of restoration. The city that once was filled with pain and suffering is now restored with a river of life that flows through the city streets. There is no longer any curse found on the earth, and the light of the Lord rests upon the people. As followers of Jesus who look towards this future that God promises to bring about, we are also reminded of our calling to actively work towards this vision of grace & peace, trusting that our efforts are a foretaste of what's to come.

So where do we begin? We begin with the most primary, and arguably the most important area of focus: Discipleship Formation. Why start here you wonder?

Often we want to jump immediately into planning what WE are going to DO/FIX/SOLVE. It's tempting to simply devise plans to tackle the world's problems, put our best foot forward, and get to work!

Yet, when we look at the Gospels, we see Jesus first invited his disciples to learn how to follow his *ways* before they were sent out to accomplish good *works* for God.

The restoration of the world begins with the life-long process of our own restoration.



4 NEW READER: Discipleship can be defined as the life long process of learning to follow Jesus. It doesn't happen overnight and it often isn't charted in a straight path. Discipleship formation is about more than holding Christian beliefs and attending church. It's more than learning information about God, as it's also about our whole selves learning to imitate Christ.

How do you best learn? (visually, auditorily, experientially, kinetically, etc.)

Can you think of a teacher in your life that you adored? What made them unique?

What experiences /people have been most formative in your journey of becoming like Christ?

5 SOMEONE WHO HASN'T READ YET, JUMP ON IN: There are some subjects/aspects in our lives that we happily step away from, say, algebra for example. I don't know about you, but I stopped learning about Algebra after 8th grade. Sadly, we often treat our faith in the same manner.

Sometimes in life we can lose sight of the fact that we are all unfinished 'products', and in our journey of discipleship, the truth of the matter is that none of us have 'graduated'. Recognizing our continual need of formation leads to a significantly more enriching life with God.

When Jesus began his ministry he did not set up a school or seminary to pump loads of information into his disciples. He also did not immediately send his disciples out into the surrounding villages to cast out demons or heal the sick. Peter, James and John were not asked to *"Go and make disciples, teach and preach to the ends of the earth"* on day one.

Instead Jesus invited the disciples to simply learn how to follow his rhythm of life and over time to develop their character and competencies.

6 NEW READER: In learning to follow Jesus it's helpful to think about how we invest our time and energy. Discipleship is so much more than a life of learning about Jesus. It's also a life of learning to imitate Jesus. As people who are learning to become like Jesus, we start with focusing on patterning our life around a three-part rhythm:

UP – Our relationship with God (prayer, worship, scripture, etc.)

IN – Our relationship in community (engaging in the church, Grace Groups, inviting people into your 'real' life)

OUT – Our relationship with the world (serving others, sharing our faith)

Examples in Scripture where Jesus invests in his relationship...

With God

Worshipping in the synagogue

Finding a solitary place to hear from God

Praying in the garden

In Community

Calling the disciples to follow him

Visiting his friends throughout his ministry

Inviting his disciples to join him

With the World

Spending time preaching to the crowds

Healing the sick

Traveling to foreign lands

Feeding the 5,000

7 When thinking about Discipleship formation in relationship to UP, IN, & OUT – **which dimension is your strength?**

Which one is your weakest dimension?

8 NEW READER: Another helpful way to think about our formation as people of faith can be centered around the development of both character traits and around certain competencies.

Let's think about this way, if you had to make a list of all the skills someone would need to master to become an Olympic Gold Medalist in the sport of swimming the list would be extensive....

They would need to master a variety of strokes (free, breast, fly, backstroke, butterfly)

They would certainly need to master the art of the flip turn and would want to perfect their starts into the pool. From body mechanics to proper dieting, the list could go on and on in the 'skills' category.

Let's say someone masters all of these skills and through hard work and determination becomes the world's greatest swimmer ever to touch the water. Imagine that they even win 28 Olympic medals over the course of their career. This individual would certainly be celebrated as the most gifted and impressive swimmer of all time....yet.....

Out of the pool this swimmer's life is spinning out of control with drugs, drinking and the pursuit of fame. In the off-season, they are even picked up for driving under the influence and reckless endangerment.

9 NEW READER, FIRST PERSON WHO MUMBLED MICHAEL PHELPS NAME ALREADY: In interviews surrounding the last Olympic games, Michael Phelps described his personal tailspin into drinking that resulted in a serious depression. He described the reality that so many of us find ourselves within. That we often devote the majority of our time and energy around developing skills or competencies within our careers, while losing sight of our need for character development.

We see this same reality play out in various settings over and again. It's the CEO of a major corporation who has mastered business and leadership, yet is found to have embezzled millions from his shareholders. We live in a society that sometimes values the skills people possess, while overlooking one's character.

10 NEW READER As disciples of Jesus, it is crucial for us to stay focused on forming both skills/competencies as well as our character.

Brainstorm a list of helpful skills to hone as a disciple of Jesus.

Competencies:

Brainstorm a list of character attributes to hone as a disciple of Jesus.

Characteristics:

11 ONCE THE GROUP HAS FINISHED SHARING, HOST, BRING US HOME:

As people who are seeking to become more like Jesus, we focus on our life-long formation into his image. From the pattern and rhythm of our lives, to the relationships we cultivate, to the skills and character that we develop, we recognize that the restoration of the world must begin with the formation of ourselves.

We focus on DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION because...

Prince of Peace is committed to the formation of disciples for the sake of the gospel and the world. We believe God empowers all people with a vocational calling. We will cultivate opportunities that equip disciples and raise up leaders within our congregation and the greater church.

12 HOST, CLOSE OUR DISCUSSION IN PRAYER:

***If you need a guided prayer, use this one.**

God, we confess that often we find our lives are not led by the vision of your kingdom. Forgive us for the sin of complacency and help us to live and love in a way that brings about restoration and healing in our world. Be with us as we embrace our discipleship challenge this week. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



CHALLENGE:

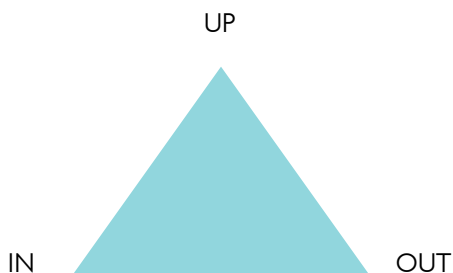
Discipleship Formation

*DISCIPLESHIP— the life-long process
of learning to follow Jesus.*

Individual Challenge

God empowers ALL people with gifts and vocational callings. We each have a story and we are all still on a journey of discovering who we are in Christ. This week your challenge is simply to find some time this week to reflect on the following aspects of discipleship.

1. Which dimension of the triangle comes most natural for you: UP - investing in your relationship with God, IN - investing in relationships with other people, or OUT - serving others and sharing the good news?



2. What aspect of the triangle comes least naturally to you?

3. Look over the lists below and put a star next to the skills/characteristics you currently possess. Circle the skills/characteristics you would like to develop further.

COMPETENCIES

Private prayer
Public prayer
Personal devotion/scriptural study
Leading a Bible study
Telling your personal faith story
Organizing community groups/small groups
Active listening
Teaching concepts to others
Comforting those in times of need
Hospitality
Name others...

CHARACTER TRAITS

Forgiveness
Gracefulness
Generosity
Truthfulness
Self-control
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Gentleness
Love
Acceptance
Humility
Boldness
Name others...



This week, try the Discipleship Challenge with your entire family. Here's how:

As a family, do the Faith 5 devotions for an entire week.

1. Everyone **share** their highs and lows of the day
2. **Read** a passage from scripture (could use one from the Journey!)
3. **Discuss** the reading together
4. **Pray** for one another
5. **Bless** each other (trace a sign of the cross on one another's foreheads and say "The Peace of Christ be with you")



Social Media

Try This: If you're into status updates and hashtags and whatnot, work those social media skills during this journey. It's an easy way to encourage others through your experience and be inspired by what others post (It's also completely optional, so only do this if it sounds like fun.)

Share with two easy steps:

Social media has become a place where you can grow in your faith. This week, when you see an article, blog, or video that demonstrates characteristics of Jesus, **Post it! Share it! Tweet it!**

Upload it to your favorite social media site, and **Tag it.** Include the hashtag #restoredjourney in your posts.

Follow us

Facebook.com/popluther

Instagram @popluthyouth



WEEK TWO

Building a Culture of Grace & Peace

Prince of Peace is passionate about being a community where all people can experience grace and peace.

We will prayerfully live into our core values, fostering a culture that finds unity in diversity because we are one in Christ.

Week 2 Scripture



Matthew 5:21-37

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

[illegible]



WEEK TWO

Journey Group
Experience

1 HOST, READ OUT LOUD. Welcome back, everyone. Before we jump into our discussion, we've got another icebreaker. **If you could live in any foreign country where would it be and why?**

2 NEW READER Let's debrief our Discipleship Challenges from last week. **Did anything stand out to you or surprise you from last week's challenge? Did anyone do the family challenge?** Anyone can start, but make sure everyone shares.

3 The last time we met, we talked about God's vision for our world as being one of restoration and healing, and how easy it is for us to lose focus on working towards that vision. We also spent some time being reminded that the restoration of the world begins within our own discipleship. This week we will focus on the important role of culture creation and our need for community. Before we go any further, let's get the conversation going a little bit. **When you hear the word *culture*—what thoughts immediately come to mind?**

4 NEW READER = MOVE ONE TO THE RIGHT It's amazing how one little word like culture can conjure up so many different thoughts and reactions. Depending on our circumstances, life experience, or current mood, a word like *culture* can bring up negative thoughts (certainly at some point we've all been found referring to the 'culture' as corrupt or perverse). Have you ever said something along the lines of, "*What has this culture become – all these people glued to their cell phones all the time?*" Or maybe you hear the word in a totally different way, as in related to things like art, music, the theater or fine dining. We can even use this word from time to time in a complementary fashion. Ever think, "*I hope my children grow up to be well cultured people?*" The word culture can even bring to mind specific feelings and emotions related to specific environments such as, the culture within our workplaces, homes, and even relationships.

For the purpose of this journey, we will define culture in the following way:

CULTURE = A way of life of a group of people--the behaviors, beliefs, values, and ethos that they accept, and that are passed along by communication and imitation.

5 NEW READER = ONE TO THE RIGHT AGAIN. Though we often use the word culture in broad, sweeping terms to describe society, the reality is that we all experience culture in very specific ways (think business culture, military culture, middle school lunch room culture, etc.). Think about the environment in which you currently spend the majority of your time – whether it is your workplace, school, or neighborhood. **What words would you use to describe the culture within this environment?** Take turns sharing.

Has anyone ever experienced culture shock? Maybe you've spent time in an environment that felt totally foreign. **Describe what that was like.**

6 AFTER EVERYONE HAS HAD A TURN TO SHARE, CONTINUE READING. Because culture is formed through the complex combination of beliefs, values, language, expectations, and actions we even experience unique 'micro-cultures' surrounding specific relationships – including our relationship with God.

Take a few moments to individually reflect on your relationship with God through the following questions. Use the space below to collect your thoughts.

What words would you use to describe your relationship with God?
(examples: intimate, guilt, love, fear, etc.)

When was a time in your life when your relationship with God felt different than it currently does?

How has your participation within a church community impacted your relationship with God - positively and/or negatively?

7 AFTER THE ACTIVITY, CONTINUE READING: Would anyone like to share what they wrote down or reflected upon?

8 WHEN PEOPLE ARE DONE SHARING, READ ALOUD. Our understanding of God's character and our relationship with God is influenced by many factors. Things like our upbringing, life experiences, our reading and interpretation of scripture, authority figures and their opinions, church involvement and even personal relationships with people like spouses, parents, and friends can work to shape our understanding of God.

CASE STUDY: Martin Luther

This certainly was true for Martin Luther. Born in Eisleben, Germany in 1483 to parents Margaret and Hans, Martin grew up with certain expectations on his life. With the hopes of a stable and lucrative career, Hans sent a young Martin (13 years old) to Erfurt to study law. Earning his Baccalaureate and Master's degrees in record time, Martin proved himself to be a determined student. However, his life took a dramatic turn at the age of 21 when Luther fought his way through a severe thunderstorm on the road to Erfurt, nearly being struck by lightning.

"Help me, St. Anne!" Luther famously screamed. "I will become a monk!"

Shortly after this traumatic event, Luther abandoned the expectations of his father to enter the monastic life. Luther threw himself into his studies and devotion to God, yet he experienced very little comfort as he struggled to find grace and peace in his relationship with a righteous God.

Luther remarked, "I hated that word, 'the righteousness of God,' by which I had been taught according to the custom and use of all teachers ... [that] God is righteous and punishes the unrighteous sinner." The young Luther could not live by faith because he was not righteous—and he knew it. For years, Luther's relationship with God was defined by his sense of guilt and brokenness. Luther feared God's judgment and despite hours spent in prayer and confession he experienced a great deal of torment in his relationship with God and the church. The church culture of Luther's day was one of the major influential forces that shaped his sense of isolation from God. For in the church, the focus seemed to be placed on "appeasing an angry and wrathful God" through personal contrition, penance, good works, and even the buying of indulgences. This created, for Luther and so many others, a church culture that was defined by guilt, obligation and ultimately fear.

While serving as a professor at Wittenberg University (Germany...not Springfield), Luther prepared lectures on the Psalms and Book of Romans. It was over the course of these studies that Luther began to see God with fresh eyes. "At last meditating day and night, by the mercy of God, I ... began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith... Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open."

Luther experienced a radical transformation in his understanding of God's grace and peace. His sin and brokenness no longer defined his personhood alone, but rather God's grace and mercy offered through Jesus Christ. Salvation was not something that could be earned, but was a free gift of God accepted through faith. The law of God, which once held Luther captive, was now covered by grace.

Inspired by passages from the Bible like Romans 8:38-39, a reformation quickly sprang forth throughout Germany, and eventually to the ends of the earth.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

9 Luther's relationship with God was restored through encountering God's grace & peace. This personal transformation Luther experienced propelled him to share the Good News of freedom in Christ with others. Luther understood that there was significant work to be done within the church culture of his day.

10 AFTER A FEW MINUTES, CONTINUE READING. Like righteousness did for Martin Luther, what do you think gets in the way of people experiencing God's grace & peace in their lives?

How might the church be complicit in this reality?

11 NEW READER. We can look at recent studies and see that many people today view the church as hypocritical, judgmental, and irrelevant. Maybe you have even experienced this in your own walk of faith. **How might we work towards fostering a culture of grace & peace within the church and world?**

We focus on BUILDING A CULTURE OF GRACE & PEACE because...

Prince of Peace is passionate about being a community where all people can experience grace and peace. We will prayerfully live into our core values, fostering a culture that finds unity in diversity because we are one in Christ.

12 HOST, CLOSE US IN PRAYER.

God, we confess that sometimes we create a culture that excludes and divides. Forgive us for our self-centeredness and direct our attention to fostering unity in our diversity. Help us this week to share your grace and peace with others. May our lives be an offering to you. Amen.



CHALLENGE:

Building a Culture of Grace & Peace



Individual Challenge

Knowing that culture is formed through the words we speak and our repeated actions, this week your challenge is to help shape a more peaceful culture within a specific community you spend time (school, your sports team, workplace, your home) by focusing primarily on the words you speak.

Focus on your words this week.

Are you using words that build up or tear down?

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **Ephesians 4:29***

This week, try the GRACE & PEACE challenge with your family. Here's how:



Family Challenge

Write your spouse a short letter this week expressing what you appreciate about them.

Sometimes in our households we create environments and schedules that become a little too busy and stressed (chores, homework, running to and from activities). Look at your calendar and plan a day that you declare a “stress free, no work, no chores...FUN FAMILY DAY”.

****I know what you are thinking...but the laundry will pile up, and the dishes in the sink, and that deadline that's coming around the corner! Eeeek. Don't let those things stop you from enjoying just one simple day that is restful as a family.**

Enjoy what you like.... board games, watch movies, bake cookies, you get the idea. Heck, stay in your pajamas if you want. DECLARE IT A DAY OF REST AND PEACE!



Social Media

Try This: In a world obsessed with negativity, polarization and division, focus on using your social media accounts to extend grace & peace this week. Use the hashtags, #grace&peace #restoredjourney.

Something to ponder: When people scroll through your Facebook page, Twitter account or Instagram feed what “culture” do you think people experience?

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WEEK THREE

Relational Mission

Relationships are at the heart
of our mission at Prince of Peace.

As we do ministry within our congregation, in
our community, and around the world,
we will live and love like Jesus by building
partnerships with a relational focus.

Week 3 Scripture



Matthew 5:38-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

[illegible]

RESTORED



WEEK THREE

Journey Group
Experience

1 HOST, READ OUT LOUD. Hello Journey people, welcome to Week 3. We know what you are thinking. You're thinking, "Can we pleeeeeease do an icebreaker?" The answer is YES. Here is a good one – **If a blockbuster Hollywood movie was being made about your life – what actor/actress would you cast to play yourself?** Bonus question – **what genre of film would this movie be?** (Action, adventure, romantic comedy, drama)

Let's consider last week's challenge. **How did it go focusing on your language/words last week?** Anyone can start, but make sure everyone has an opportunity to share. **Did anyone schedule or enjoy the family challenge?**

2 NEW READER Before we move into the focus area for this week, let's recap what we've looked at so far. The last few weeks we have been focusing on God's vision for our world being restored with grace & peace and we began with looking at our own lives of discipleship. We were reminded that the restoration of the world begins with our commitment to our own life-long journey of being formed into the image of Christ.

Last week we focused on the importance of creating a culture of grace & peace within the church where people can encounter the freedom of Christ. We were reminded of Martin Luther's journey to grace & peace, which began the reformation. We were also encouraged to think about the ways in which, 500 years later, we are still called to cultivate communities centered on the reformation teachings.

3 NEW READER = MOVE ONE TO THE LEFT. The temptation we face now is to simply stop here and direct our energies solely around our own growth, and building the local church. Let's not be naïve, there is an enormous amount of work to be done in these two areas. There are countless classes we could attend, spiritual formation workshops to participate in, there is 2,000 years of church history to study, and discipleship skills we can grow. There are many ways we can (and should) direct our energies within our own local church, meetings to attend, groups to lead, ensembles to play within. However, our faith leads us to work towards a vision that is much larger than our beloved congregation and ourselves. Our faith leads us to pursue a *WORLD* restored with grace & peace.

Someone grab a bible and read **Matthew 28:16-20.**

Someone else look up and read **John 20:10-22.**

KEEP READING: In these passages we encounter the disciples of Jesus who are very much at a crossroads in their lives. They have devoted years of their life to following Jesus as his disciples, while along the way forming an amazing community of faith. This all seems to come into question with the crucifixion of Jesus. Bewilderment, confusion, fear, isolation, and sorrow must have been swirling inside of each disciple, as they remained locked away in hidden rooms.

What should they do? Should they go back to their hometowns and villages? Should they stay in the city and remain hidden?

Thankfully, we know that in the resurrection of Jesus he visits his disciples, not only restoring their faith but also reminding them of their purpose! **In the passages we read, what did Jesus instruct the disciples to do?**

4 NEW READER. Thank goodness that Jesus didn't just tell the disciples to stay put in Jerusalem, build one local church, create programs and committees, and devote their remaining years to weekly worship, chili cook-off's, and bible studies. The disciples are sent out in mission for the entire world. The early days of the church were an exciting time filled with missionary zeal and passion. Historical documents show that within a couple of generations, the Gospel of Jesus spread to nearly every corner of the world. Across the Middle East, to Europe, Asia, and Africa, the message of God's love and redemption in Jesus Christ sprang forth!

So here we are in 2017 with an estimated 300,000 churches in the United States. A quick Google search tells us that there are 21 churches in Loveland, Ohio alone. There is no denying that God's people have been successful at planting churches, building facilities, and creating programs to serve their members.

As impressive (and often helpful) as they can be, the reality is that God's mission for the world is not to plant church buildings on every street corner.

Steeple and pulpits are not the destination of God's mission or vision, but rather a by-product of the vision.

5 NEW READER: **What comes to mind when you think about the word "church"? How do you hear people refer to the "church"?**

6 NEW READER: Somewhere over the last 2,000 years of Christian history, we have inadvertently redefined the ‘church’ and its mission in ways that are not always helpful. We all fall into the trap from time to time in referring to the church as a place, a building, an hour on Sunday morning, a program or even an institution.

However, the church is NOT.... *a building, a destination, a worship service, a program, a potluck, an organization that exists to meet the needs of its members....*

RATHER, the church IS the people of God who are commissioned to be witnesses to the resurrection. (Luke 24:48, Acts 1:8)

In Luke 24:48 and again in Acts 1:8, the author of Luke-Acts records Jesus saying to the apostles, “You will be my witnesses.” The apostles would be charter members of the church. This charge to them is not a simple reminder of what they saw and experienced with Jesus. Jesus is not saying, “You will be my *eyewitnesses*” He is saying, “You will be my *witnesses*.” It is to confer onto them and thus the church, the church’s full identity and calling in the world. “Witness to the resurrection” is both what the church is and what the church *does*. It is the animation of it’s own DNA. Dogs bark. Cats purr. Salmon swim upstream to spawn. The church lives as “witness to the resurrection.” (Rick Barger, A New and Right Spirit)

How might this understanding of the church – defined as the people of God who are witnesses to the resurrection change the way we live?

7 HOST, BRING US HOME: If we think about the church in the old paradigm, we can view mission as an activity the church does through programs or trips, rather than mission being the very essence of everything the church is and does. Living & loving like Jesus as witnesses to his resurrection inherently propels us into our communities and around the world.

Besides the resurrection itself, how does Jesus’ life and ministry witness to God’s ability to raise the dead, make all things new, and restore the world with grace & peace? What examples could you name?

Hopefully by now you've gotten the point – everything we do can have the capacity to witness to the good news that the tomb is empty. It's easy to be mindful of our calling to live and love like Jesus when we fill our schedule with “church” activities like worship, etc. However, God's mission cannot be contained in the walls of our buildings or programs.

Considering that EVERYTHING we do has the capacity to testify to the resurrection, how can even those things in our life that seem mundane be part of our witness?

Grocery Shopping

Going to the gym

Talking to your neighbors

Traveling to Haiti

Volunteering

Teaching Sunday School

Baking Communion Bread

Commuting to work

Standing in line at the bank.....

If you are struggling with seeing how some of these activities could testify to restoration, grace and peace consider times where you have encountered the alternative? (Have you ever run into an impatient shopper at Kroger or have you ever overheard someone berating their server at a restaurant on Sunday afternoon still wearing their church clothes?)

11 LET'S WRAP UP: We focus on RELATIONAL MISSION because....

Relationships are at the heart of our mission at Prince of Peace. As we do ministry within our congregation, in our community, and around the world, we will live & love like Jesus by building partnerships with a relational focus.

God, we confess that we often forget about our calling to share the gospel invitation with others. Help us to see the people around us to whom we can extend an invitation for the sake of building up an authentic friendship that is rooted and grounded in love. Thank you for never giving up on us. Amen.

CHALLENGE:

Relational Mission



Individual Challenge

As we live & love like Jesus, we focus on witnessing to the resurrection in the context of relationships. Your challenge this week is to invest in a relationship by finding a practical way of extending grace & peace to someone. Is there someone at school you could have lunch with, a coworker that you could reach out to, or maybe someone in your neighborhood you could connect with? You could even write a letter to someone just to show that you value their relationship! Can you think of a person or a situation that is in need of restoration and good news?

To whom did you extend grace & peace?

What did you do to extend grace & peace and how did it go?

Sometimes the hardest people to extend grace & peace to are found within our own families. This week find a specific way to focus on serving a family member.

Family Challenge

Social Media

Try This: Use Social Media to reconnect with an old friend this week! Focus on keeping the lines of communication open to a friend or relative! Relationships Matter!



WEEK FOUR

Investing in God's Vision

We celebrate the abundant gifts from God that are present at Prince of Peace.

We will continue to build a culture of generosity, reduce our debt, and increase our capacity for missional impact.

As faithful stewards, we will invest in God's vision of a world restored with grace & peace.

Week 4 Scripture



Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

[illegible]



WEEK FOUR

Journey Group
Experience

1 HOST, READ OUT LOUD. Hello everyone, it's our last week! Don't worry though, you'll be hearing more about God's vision, and as a group you can stay connected if you want. For tonight's icebreaker, **everyone share something they have appreciated about spending the last 4 weeks together.** You know the drill by now; anyone can start, but make sure everyone shares.

Last week, everyone was challenged to invest in a relationship by finding a practical way to extend grace and peace.

Did you do the challenge? If so, how did it go?

2 NEW READER. Now that this year's Journey is drawing to a close, we turn our attention to considering how it is that we might INVEST IN GOD'S VISION. For the purpose of our study we will define INVESTING in the following manner:

Investing: *To expend resources with the hope/expectation of achieving a profit or material result.*

To get the conversation going a little bit, **when you consider the definition above, what thoughts come to mind?**

Can you name a few different areas of your life, or things that you intentionally invest in?

3 KEEP READING. It's not too difficult for us to consider the ways in which we invest our resources like our time, talents, and yes, our treasure... money....coin.....moolah.....dinero...dollars & cents. We all make choices big and small that guide how we expend our resources, but have you ever truly considered what vision those investments are working towards? If we are truthful with ourselves, often it's the vision of the "good life".

What thoughts or images come to mind when you think about the "good life"?

How does our culture/society define what the "good life" looks like?

4 READ THE FOLLOWING CASE STUDY

Case Study: Have You Met John?

(Mike Breen & Ben Sternke, *Oikonomics*, 2014)

Surely you've seen something like the following scenario play out in real life. John the computer programmer gets an incredible job across the country, making quite a bit more money than he was before. It's an opportunity he can't pass up. It's good for his family's ability to pay bills and move into a bigger house. He'll advance in his career, opening up even more opportunities in the future.

Sure there are sacrifices his family will need to make. They are leaving family and friends they have known for years, and a church community that has meant a lot to them. But it's all for the greater good! With all the money he'll get from his new job, they'll be able to get things they haven't been able to afford until now. John's wife will be able to have her own studio space for her artwork; the kids will each have their own room (with one to spare!). They'll be able to send their kids to a private school that the other parents rave about and even set aside money for the kids to go to college.

So he moves his family to take advantage of this remarkable new opportunity. Initially it feels like a dream come true. His family loves the new house and the amenities of the neighborhood they were able to move into, and John enjoys the challenges and fast pace of his new job. But a few years after the move, the family starts noticing some unintended consequences. John doesn't see his family much because of all the extra hours he must put in at work. His wife's artwork is selling well at the farmers market and craft fairs she attends, but those events are generally on the weekends, which means John and his wife see even less of each other.

The stress of his job seeps in to his family life, and many evenings he brings his work home with him to work on after dinner, or even during dinner. His kids begin to spend most of their time with friends, and so they grow more and more detached from family life. John's wife spends most of her free time with her new friends in the art world, and before John knows it, they haven't been on a date in almost a year. Before he can blink it's been five years since his opportunity of a lifetime, and John is divorced and living alone, seeing his kids only every other weekend.

Does anything in the case study above resonate with you?

Are there any parts of John's story that remind you of your own?

5 AFTER SHARING, CONTINUE READING. These kinds of stories are all around us. Unhappy celebrities grace the pages of every gossip magazine in every grocery store checkout line, and yet the myth persists that these people “have it all.” First-round NFL draft pick. Dream job across the country. Fame and fortune as a celebrity. Winning the lottery. Again and again, we see those who seem to have be on the path to having it all end up with hardly anything. What are we missing? (*Oikonomics*, pg. 5)

Someone grab a Bible and read **Matthew 6:19-34**.

Let’s react to this teaching. **What does Jesus encourage us to focus on? What do you think Jesus meant in verse 22 when he said** , *“The eye is the lamp of your body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.”*

What connection is there to his words in verse 33: *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.”?*

6 NEW READER. God is continually inviting us to live our lives guided by a “Kingdom Vision”. It’s a vision of the world restored and healed to the beauty and purity of God’s creation. Can you imagine a world marked with peace, where conflicts and wars cease? Can you envision all of God’s children having equal access to clean water and healthy foods? **When you think about God’s vision for the world, what do you think it looks like? Describe it in as much detail as you can.**

7 KEEP GOING: For the last few weeks we have looked at three focus areas of ministry that can help guide us towards God’s vision of the world restored with grace & peace. Let’s review:

DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION

Keepin’ it simple: We focus on our development as disciples!

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GRACE & PEACE

Keepin’ it simple: We focus on building a GOSPEL community!

RELATIONAL MISSION

Keepin’ it simple: We focus on being the ‘church’ for the sake of the world!

In light of these focus areas, where are you comfortable/confident? Where could you grow? Take turns sharing. What are some practical ways you could invest in these focus areas?

8 AFTER DISCUSSING, KEEP READING: Have you ever considered that God has equipped us with various forms of “capital” that we can invest in God’s vision for the world? Consider the following list:

SPIRITUAL CAPITAL:

The faith, hope, prayers, and depth of our relationship with God that we can invest in others and the world.

RELATIONAL CAPITAL:

The relationships, bonds, quality and quantity of our relationships with others.

PHYSICAL CAPITAL:

The time and energy we have to invest towards God’s vision of restoration.

INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL:

This refers to the knowledge we’ve acquired as well as our ability to bring ideas and creative solutions to the table.

FINANCIAL CAPITAL:

Simply the money we have to invest.

God uses our **prayers, faith, and hope** to help *restore the world.*

God uses our **relationships** to help *restore the world.*

God uses our **time, talents, and hard work** to help *restore the world.*

God uses our **ideas and knowledge** to help *restore the world.*

God uses our **dollars and cents** to help *restore the world.*

Out of these 5 forms of capital, which one feels like a new idea to you? Why?

Do any of these forms of capital stand out to you as something you should pay more attention to?

9 ONE LAST ACTIVITY. Over the last four weeks we've covered a lot of ground as we've explored our vision together. To close out our time together, we are going to do one last activity before we receive our final CHALLENGE. This activity is called **"Take Away, Leave Behind"**. Spend a few moments thinking to yourself about what you want to leave behind as you move forward in life investing in God's vision. It might be something as simple as "Anxiety" or "Pessimism" or "an over-scheduled life". Once you have identified what you want to leave behind, write it in the space below.

I AM LEAVING BEHIND...

Now spend some time thinking about what you are taking away from this journey that will help you live into God's vision. For example, it could be a concept we covered like the "5 capitals" or it could be something else like "new friendships" or "better perspective". Whatever it is, write it in the space below.

I AM TAKING AWAY...

Once everyone has completed the activity, spend time going around the room to share reflections.

8 CLOSING PRAYER.

God, Thank you for this journey experience and the people in this room. Help us in our life long journey to follow you while seeking grace and peace in the world. Give us your spirit of hope, and clarity to see all the ways in which you are restoring the world with grace & peace. We pray in Jesus' name., Amen.

CHALLENGE:

Investing in God's Vision



Individual Challenge

CHALLENGE: HOW WILL YOU INVEST YOUR CAPITAL?

Your final challenge is this: now that this journey has come to close, consider how you might live a more intentional life! Think about the way you invest your capital, and the things you leverage capital to get. **If an objective observer looked at the way you spend your time and was asked to put the five forms of capital in value order for your life, what would that order be?**

What would it look like for you to rearrange the way you value the five forms of capital so they line up with God's Vision for the world?

SPIRITUALLY I could...

RELATIONALLY I could...

PHYSICALLY I could...

INTELLECTUALLY I could...

FINANCIALLY I could...



GRACE GROUPS

SOMETHING ELSE TO CONSIDER: GRACE GROUPS

WHAT IS A GRACE GROUP? Grace Groups are one way that we build community and grow in discipleship at Prince of Peace. Being part of a Grace Group (6-20 people or so—think “extended family”) is a great way to grow in faith (UP), connect with others (IN), and serve together (OUT). Grace Groups are for everyone, and help us all *to live & love like Jesus!*

WHY SHOULD I JOIN A GRACE GROUP? A Grace Group isn't just one more thing to add to your already busy schedule. It's a place to learn and grow in discipleship that will impact every part of your life. Our hope is that every person and family at Prince of Peace finds a Grace Group to call their own! You may want to visit a couple of groups before deciding on the group that's right for you. The group you are with right now might already meet as a Grace Group.

WHAT ARE THE RYTHYMS OF A GRACE GROUP? Ideally, Grace Groups meet at least twice a month, usually in someone's home or a place around the community. The focus is always centered on sharing life together, growing in faith through study and prayer, and reaching out to others.

While each group takes on its own unique rhythm and shape, all groups are encouraged to find a balance of UP, IN, & OUT.

IF YOUR JOURNEY GROUP IS NOT A GRACE GROUP, consider starting a Grace Group! We would love to equip you to lead a Grace Group. Contact Pastor Lorne at plhlad@popluther.org for more details.

Social
Media

Try This: Last chance to share your journey with your closest friends and internet fans! **Take a group photograph** of your journey group. **Post** it with the hashtag **#restoredjourney**

Follow us: [Facebook.com/popluther](https://www.facebook.com/popluther)
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Prince of Peace

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