



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of October 1, 2017

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Numbers 5:1-31 "Confession & Restitution"

- Describe what happens when you are guilty & you know you are "unclean". What happens internally? How does guilt & uncleanness impact relationships?
- What does it mean to be "at peace"?
- In this passage, we see that God believed it was *imperative* that His people be cleansed, reconciled-- at peace-- before they were mobilized to take the Promised Land.
- Numbers 5:1-4. We all suffer from unintentional uncleanness. We cannot do anything about it. Read the confession of Paul in [Romans 7:18-24](#). Describe Paul's struggle in your own words. What does he realize before God?
- Numbers 5:5-10. We all commit transgressions against our neighbor, our Lord, and ourselves. Read the account of Zacchaeus in [Luke 19:1-10](#). Zacchaeus had sinned against a crowd of people. What cleansed his conscience? What impact did a clear conscience have for him?
- Numbers 5:11-31. We all commit acts of unfaithfulness against God and one another. Read the description of how Jesus deals with the unfaithful in [Hebrews 13:10-13](#). What did Jesus do in light of our unfaithfulness? How does that ministry compel the people of God?
- This past Sunday, the church participated in the Lord's Supper. We believe that God is present with His people in a powerful way in the sacrament: "As surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup shared with me, so surely his body was offered and broken for me and his blood poured out for me on the cross.... as surely as I receive from the hand of the one who serves, and taste with my mouth the bread and cup of the Lord, given me as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely he nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life with his crucified body and poured-out blood" (*Heidelberg Catechism*, 75). As you reflect on that part of the worship service, how did Jesus refresh and nourish you with His grace?
- Take time to pray together, confession your sins and trusting the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ to make you clean and have peace with God. Read [John 1:9](#) as a guide to prayer.

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
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Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 5:1-31](#).

- Why would-- in the middle of all these instructions about the arrangement of the camp and the arrangement of the march-- the Lord include these instructions?
- Why aren't the people of God cleaning up the things they will need for the march and the battles ahead?
- Because, contrary to how we may feel, sin and death hang over us and mark us. In today's chapter there are three categories of sin and how they are to be dealt with in the camp and on the march.
 - Unintentional Uncleanness. This leads to expulsion from the camp (see [Leviticus 11-15](#)).
 - Transgression: Breaking faith with the Lord and with people
 - Unfaithfulness: The breaking of faith in marriage

Unintentional Uncleanness (1-4)

- "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" ([Romans 7:24](#))
- Frankly this seems unfair and don't I seem to remember that Jesus said all of these laws were dumb and he did away with them?
- The leper needed cleansing in [Luke 5:12-16](#), and the bleeding woman needed cleansing in [Luke 8:43-48](#)

Transgression (5-10)

- Confession and atonement are essential in dealing with transgression.
- See Zacchaeus in [Luke 19:1-10](#) and [John 1:9](#)

Unfaithfulness (11-31)

- Such a strange ritual. It reminded Israel of their own "marriage" to God.
- It was before the Lord, and He was the one to judge. This "cup".
- "We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." ([Hebrews 13:10-16](#))