



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of August 13, 2017

WEPC small groups meet in homes across Richmond every week to participate in Jesus Christ's mission to Richmond, enjoy fellowship, study God's Word, pray together, and explore the fruit of the Gospel on our lives. Simply put, these groups are small enough to be the church to one another, and they serve as bridges between WEPC and the community where God has planted us. It is a place where the church can go deeper in the worship of God and further in Christ's mission.

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.

Sermon: "Grace, Love & Fellowship"

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [II Corinthians 13:11-14](#).

- In the conclusion of this letter the apostle gives 5 statements, a promise, a command and then His benediction.
 - Rejoice
 - Be restored
 - Be comforted
 - Be agreeable
 - Be at peace
 - The God of love and peace will be present
 - Greet one another with a holy kiss and therefore receive the greeting of all the saints
 - Blessing
- All of us would want to be a part of a community where these things are first believed, and then manifest in our life together. That is why the first word is to rejoice.
- There is great irony in this. The concerns and the disputes are not papered over but rather are placed in context.
- The secret to this reality is found in identity. What is the logic of the passage.
- Who am I and who are we?
- We are the people where God lives. We are the people where Jesus lives. This has been the whole point of the Bible.
- "God walked in the garden in the cool of the day..." (Genesis 3)
- "...the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God" (Revelation 21).
- Are we a community and are we individuals where the God of peace and love lives?
- "Moses said to the Lord, 'See, you say to me, "Bring up this people," but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight." Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.' And he said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?'" (Exodus 33:12-17)
- If the great exchange has been on my behalf by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit then I receive and then pass that along.
- We must be receivers first. Then these things will be true of us.

Going Deeper in God's Worship

Reflect on the text together. [Hear the sermon here.](#)

- 1.) What is true about God's character, promises or work?
- 2.) What does the Scripture teach you about yourself or others?
- 3.) Are you encouraged to follow Jesus in His mission? How?

Reflect on the whole of Sunday's liturgy together. Locate this week's [Order of Worship here.](#)

- 1.) Was there an element of the worship service that you would like to share with the group?
 - *A Scripture verse that was read?*
 - *A prayer that was prayed?*
 - *A song that was sung?*
 - *A sacrament that was administered?*
 - *A way that glory was given to God?*
 - *A way that someone encouraged you?*
- 2.) Did the Holy Spirit convict, change, or encourage you in any way you wish to share with the group?
- 3.) Is Jesus leading you or the group to take a specific risk to minister the Good News to Richmond? Your neighbors? Your co-workers? Your family and friends?

Going Further in Christ's Mission

- 1.) Have the Scripture text open in front of you as a guide to your prayers.
 - Spend time thanking God and giving Him glory.
- 2.) Ask the Lord for vision, strength and faith as followers of Jesus Christ.
 - Count on the work of the Holy Spirit for change.
 - Ask for God's forgiveness and grace to repent of sin and trust Jesus.
 - Pray for the world, our country, Richmond, and the Church.
 - Pray for members of your group, family members, or co-workers, neighbors and friends.

*Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
[To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons](http://www.wepc.org/archivedsermons)*