



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of July 2, 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: "Jesus or Another Gospel"

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [II Corinthians 11:1-15](#).

- The heart beats faster than the mind can think. While I want to be entertained, I'd rather be impressed. What kind of Gospel is preached about a crucified Savior? This all requires some humility.
- Paul's reasons for his concern:
 - He had betrothed the Corinthians to Christ. He viewed himself as a spiritual father. Why this image?
 - Paul is not inferior to the "super apostles" because he lacks skill in speaking or because he refused to take compensation for the work he did there.
- He believes they are being spiritually seduced. Remember Eve and (Adam). "So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate and she also gave to her husband who was with her and he ate." ([Genesis 3:6](#))
- According to the apostle's Corinthian correspondence, there was something about the Gospel of a crucified Messiah that attracted the scorn of the worldly and the sophisticated. This was true not only of those without but also those within the church-- the Corinthian congregation in particular.
- "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach[a] to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." ([I Corinthians 1:18-25](#))
- Paul proclaim in weakness, a Gospel. His opponents proclaim a "gospel" in strength. Christ is crucified, now risen. Paul proclaimed the word of the Cross.
- The Corinthians viewed Christ being revealed in power, and not in weakness and suffering. The Gospel overturns this. According to the apostle, Christ is known only as the crucified Jesus, now risen. This knowledge of Christ requires that our judgments as fallen, veiled and blinded human beings must be overturned.
- That is why the Lord's Supper is so important....

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*