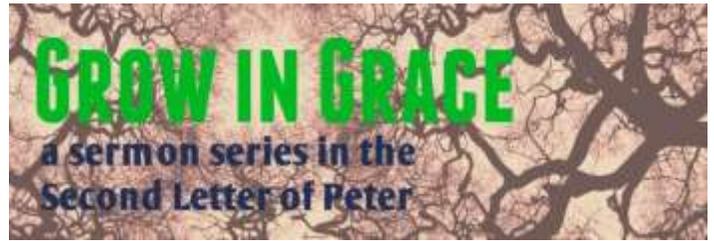




Worship Study Guide for the week of May 8, 2016



WEPC Small Group Network

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

WEPC's Small Group Network meets 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: *Eyewitnesses of His Majesty*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [II Peter 1:12-19](#).

Peter's Last Will & Testament

- "Naturally the idea of reminder is especially important in a farewell statement such as this, for memory is all that will be left." (*Peter Davids*)
- He will mention "reminders" three more times in this letter.
- This reminder is Peter's gift at the end of his life, his last will and testament.
- He believes the putting off of his body is coming soon.
- "This letter is Peter's last will and testament. It's as if he were reliving that day at the temple gate in Jerusalem when he said to the cripple, "Silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give to you" (Acts 3:6). He still didn't have any silver to will to anyone, but what he had was infinitely more valuable and that he wills to the church: an authoritative reminder of the precious and very great promise that Christ is coming again. I think if Peter could see us now, he would be delighted that his letter was preserved in Scripture and that 1,900 years later he is still reminding and arousing the saints." (*John Piper*)
- It is important to note to whom this is written: People who know & People who are established

What is it That We Need Reminding Of?

- We need reminding because we live in a dark place: Jesus is coming again.
- The reason for this reminder is not in the resurrection, or the Ascension, but in his Transfiguration.
- Peter is eager to remind us because of his eyewitness account (not a myth), of the majesty of Christ and the word from His Father.
- "The enjoyment of [God] is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows; but God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams. But God is the ocean." (*Jonathan Edwards*)
- So pay attention

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.

Kevin Greene, 2016