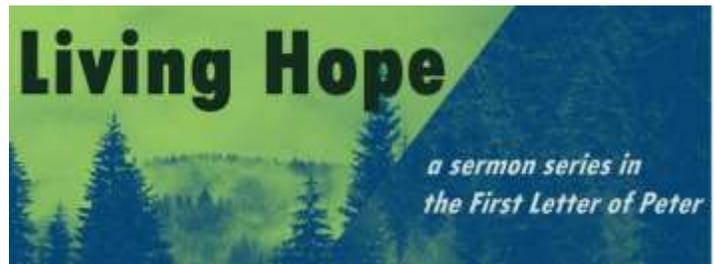




Worship Study Guide for the week of April 10, 2016



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: *Because He Cares For You*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 5:6-11](#).

- "Prayer of an Anonymous Abbess: Lord, thou knowest better than myself that I am growing older and will soon be old. Keep me from becoming too talkative, and especially from the unfortunate habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and at every opportunity. Release me from the idea that I must straighten out other peoples' affairs. With my immense treasure of experience and wisdom, it seems a pity not to let everybody partake of it. But thou knowest, Lord, that in the end I will need a few friends. Keep me from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Grant me the patience to listen to the complaints of others; help me to endure them with charity. But seal my lips on my own aches and pains -- they increase with the increasing years and my inclination to recount them is also increasing. I will not ask thee for improved memory, only for a little more humility and less self-assurance when my own memory doesn't agree with that of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong.
- Keep me reasonably gentle. I do not have the ambition to become a saint -- it is so hard to live with some of them -- but a harsh old person is one of the devil's masterpieces. Make me sympathetic without being sentimental, helpful but not bossy. Let me discover merits where I had not expected them, And talents in people whom I had not thought to possess any. And, Lord, give me the grace to tell them so. Amen" (*Margot Benary-Isbert*)
- I think we would all agree humility (at least a little) is a good thing. We are usually glad to see it in others....
- "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject..." (v.5); "clothe yourselves, all of you with humility toward one another (v.5); "humble yourselves, therefore under the mighty hand of God" (v.6)
 - God opposes the proud
 - God gives grace to the humble
 - God will exalt the humble
 - God will care for the humble
- Peter knew this well. He was humbled every day.
- This thought is taken from Psalm 55:22, "cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you..."
- All of this in the context of betrayal and persecution.
- Peter in the Garden in pride, drew the sword, now he urges in the face of persecution and anxiety, humility.
- So how will we know we are proud?
 - Self-satisfied, "I have done really well..."
 - Self-reliant, "In this area of my life, God is not necessary..."
 - Insubordinate, "I know better than those in authority over me"
 - Critical, "What an...."
 - Controlling Anxiety, "Yes, but what if..."
- In many ways the opposite of humility is not just pride but anxiety.
- Proudful people are often alone, while humble people often have lots of support.
- The call to believe the Gospel is the opening round of humility in the life of the believer.

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