



Worship Study Guide for the week of April 3, 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: *Shepherd*

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

- To understand what these encouragements to elders, to non-elders and the whole of the church, we must begin at a breakfast meeting by the Sea of Tiberias ([John 21:1-19](#); not a board meeting). Jesus calls on Peter to feed and tend the lambs (sheep).
- The context of this call is tremendous failure. But we must also see that the prerequisite is not only sins forgiven, but love for Jesus spilling over into love for Jesus' people.
- "Do you love me?" ([John 21:15-17](#))
- "To concentrate on service and activity for God may often actively thwart our attaining the true goal, God Himself. At first sight it seems heroic to fling our lives away in the service of God and of our fellows. We feel it is bound to mean more to him than our experience of him. Service seems so unselfish...The things God is most concerned about are our coldness of heart toward him and our proud broken natures. Christian service of itself can and often does, leave our self-centered nature untouched. That is why there is scarcely a church, a mission or a committee undertaking a special piece of service, that is without an unresolved problem of personal relationships eating out its heart...This is because Christian service often gives us opportunities for leadership and position that we could not attain in the secular world and we quickly fall into pride, self-seeking and ambition." (Roy Hession)
- So...Authority is exercised in a community of redeemed sinners, so that we have a posture, even in leadership of humility.
 - Leaders lead from a low place,
 - As God would have you
 - Not domineering
 - Looking to Jesus for approval (the unfading crown)
 - Clothed in humility
 - Because grace runs downhill
- The shepherding and leading of the church is more about character than about gifts, or popularity.
- Humility (driven by a Gospel understanding of my standing) is prerequisite for leadership (and followership).

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.