



Worship Study Guide for the week of March 27, 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: *Risen*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Mark 10:45](#).

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Why I believe Jesus Actually Rose from the Dead?

- Easter unlike Christmas, smacks us in the face.
- I expect to be served, especially when I have done something, paid something to be served.
- It is very difficult for me to be served, when it is free. I am always tempted to pay back the service so that I can feel like I have added something, that a gift is not a gift, because in some way it has been bought or earned. Will the giver think less of me, if I do not/cannot reciprocate?
- It is comforting to think of Jesus as the lowly servant. We are happy to think of his great moral example, particularly as it relates to caring for others, but it gets uncomfortable when it becomes personal (see Jesus washing Peter's feet. It becomes even more uncomfortable when I think of his service as overcoming that which I could never overcome.
- God does not want us to prove our strength and our resources by serving him, rather, God wants us to demonstrate His strength and resources in our weakness and our poverty, by admitting that we are the ones who need to be served.
- Jesus' mission, as demonstrated in the Resurrection was not to recruit people to work for God, but to bring to us righteousness and life.
- Jesus came and lived and died and rose again to meet our needs. Really, the biggest question for us today is, "What are your biggest needs?" If you and I believe our biggest needs this morning are for good health, or a good marriage or a good job or a child or a.....
- Then Easter is hollow indeed.

The resurrection of Jesus serves us at the two most pressing needs we have:

- 1.) The removal of sin and guilt and a right relationship established with God. Scripture tells us that if Christ is not raised your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. The resurrection is God's seal of approval that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ has covered our sin. His death was an awesome success. Jesus serves us in dying and rising again for us. We could never work our way back to God, only He can make the way for us.
- 2.) The destruction of the enemy death. On Friday night we sang the folk song "What Wondrous Love is This". There is a line in that song that says, "and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on." We (and everything around us) are like insects caught in a web. Jesus sets us free from the sting and power of death. Will you let Him serve you?

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