



Worship Study Guide for the week of March 20, 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: *Bear That Name*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 4:12-19](#).

- When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He came not to establish an earthly kingdom, but to suffer and die.
- He would ask Judas, later in the week, "Friend, why have you come?" If we were to ask Jesus the same question, He would say He has come to answer the calls of the crowd, "Hosanna" which means, "Lord, save us."
- We should not be surprised when we suffer, even if we suffer for being 'named' Christians.
- There is a long and hallowed history of Christians suffering and dying, and as our text today says, having 'the Spirit of glory and God' resting upon us.
- Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley and Thomas Cranmer are all examples to us.
 - First, we must remember when we suffer, it is from God. 'who suffer according to God's will'
 - Second, it is called a fiery trial. We forget that the Lord disciplines those he loves.
 - Third, there is a difference between refining and judgment.
 - Fourthly, we are not to be surprised by suffering, because our Lord suffered.
 - Fifthly, trust the God who loves you enough to refine you.
- "Entrust your soul to a faithful Creator. The purpose of good theology is to build and sustain great trust in God. In all Christian suffering Satan is seeking to devour faith [1 Peter 5:8-9]. God is seeking to test and refine faith [4:12]. God's great purpose in all our suffering will be accomplished when we do what Jesus did in the agony of the cross when he cried out [Luke 23:46], 'Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.' He entrusted himself to a faithful Creator. According to 2 Corinthians 1:9 God's purpose in suffering is to cause us to rely no longer on ourselves but utterly on him who raises the dead." (John Piper)

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