



## Worship Study Guide for the week of February 21, 2016



### WEPC Small Group Network

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, [kevin@wepc.org](mailto: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: *Called to Bless*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 3:8-12](#)

#### Unity of Spirit, Sympathy, Brotherly/Sisterly Love, Compassion & Humility (8)

- Peter has concluded his teaching on submission and begins the last section of his letter with the word, "Finally"
- These 5 adjectives in the text that act as commands
- Because of the structure the adjective in the middle drives our understanding. This is primarily about how we treat one another in the church and how that spills out to those outside the church.
- What makes this passage hard is not the 5 adjectives but the application of this to those who hurt, insult or disappoint us.

#### This Attitude toward Those Who Cause us Pain is our Calling (9)

- "See the connection between this verse and [1 Peter 2:20-21](#), 'Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called. What credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.'... 'For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.' While it is obvious that the love, compassion and humility mentioned above would form a fine basis for this teaching, the instruction itself is based on the teaching of Jesus ([Matthew 5:38-48](#) and [Luke 6:27-36](#)) which was taken quite seriously by the early church." (*Peter Davids*)
- "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." ([Matthew 5:38-48](#))
- "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic[a] either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be

sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”  
([Luke 6:27-36](#))

- So the calling of the church in the world is to look like Jesus, talk like Jesus, not just to ourselves within the church but to those who are outside and who insult and hurt us.
- How do we do this?
- We bless those who insult us because we have been blessed and because we will be blessed.

### What is ‘Blessing’?

- Primarily here it is words that convey a power and grace to change lives and hearts.
- This comes primarily from the fact that Jesus has done this to and for me before I was even thinking of Him.
- Jesus blesses me by his life and death and resurrection. This frees me to do live this same pattern of life before and for others.

## 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.