



## Worship Study Guide for the week of December 27, 2015



### 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: *God's People*

This week, Joe Brown preached on [1 Peter 2:9-10](#)

"To speak of a growing temple of living stones stretches an Old Testament figure to convey New Testament reality. The figure of the tabernacle/temple pictured the presence of God among his people. God's tent was pitched in the centre of Israel's wilderness camp; in the land of promise God made the temple at Jerusalem his dwelling. God was there, among his people; they belonged to him, and he to them." (*Edmund Clowney*)

"And you shall be my people, and I will be your God." (*Jeremiah 30:22*)

"All Christians, wheresoever they be, compose one holy nation. They are one nation, collected under one head, agreeing in the same manners and customs, and governed by the same laws; and they are a holy nation, because consecrated and devoted to God, renewed and sanctified by his Holy Spirit." (*Matthew Henry*)

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." (*1 Corinthians 15:22*)

"In 1 Peter is a whole series of Jewish expressions shaped by the OT... What the author wishes to underline is the fact that the Christian community is nothing new; it is to be understood as the fulfilment of the promises and hopes given to Israel... The emphasis, meanwhile, rests on the unity of those who, as pilgrims (1 Pet. 1:1 f.) and in suffering (1 Pet. 2:21 ft.; 4:12 ft.; 5:8 f.), come together as living stones in a spiritual house (2:5). In all this, according to the eschatological terminology of shepherd and flock, Christ stands at the head as chief shepherd, i.e. as Messiah." (*Colin Brown*)

"What is your only comfort in life and death? That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ." (*Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1*)

"Christians are to "publish abroad" the mighty works of God, which include both his activity in creation and his miracle of redemption in the life, death, resurrection, and revelation of Jesus Christ... the praise is based on what God has done for them." (Peter Davids)

"God's purpose in redeeming us is not simply our own enjoyment but that we might glorify him... Seeking our own eternal well being - right though that is - could never provide a truly satisfying goal for life. The answer to our search for ultimate meaning lies in 'declaring the excellencies' of God, for he alone is infinitely worthy of glory. Redemption is ultimately not man-centred but God-centred." (*Wayne Grudem*)

"She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, 'Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all...' When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. 9 And the LORD said, 'Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.'" (*Hosea 1:6,8-9*)

“Therefore, behold, I will allure her,  
 and bring her into the wilderness,  
 and speak tenderly to her.  
 And there I will give her her vineyards  
 and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.  
 And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth,  
 as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt...  
 “And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD,  
 I will answer the heavens,  
 and they shall answer the earth,  
 and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
 and they shall answer Jezreel,  
 and I will sow her for myself in the land.  
 And I will have mercy on No Mercy,  
 and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;  
 and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’” (*Hosea 2:14-15, 21-23*)

## 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.