



Worship Study Guide for the week of November 8, 2015



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: *Good*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 2:1-3](#).

Grow Up Into Salvation

- Before today's text, Peter says, "...having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth.... Since you have been born again through the living and abiding word of God... And this word is the good news that was preached to you..." ([1 Peter 1:22-25](#))
- In today's text we have to commands:
- To put away. Take off, like clothes
- To long for or crave spiritual milk of the Lord's kindness
- With the result that we would grow up into salvation, not just being saved, but fully experiencing all that God has for us in Christ.
- Growth = Change, that is the goal
- Malice: a desire to hurt someone with words or deeds, either directly or indirectly
- Deceit : a desire to gain some advantage or preserve some position by deceiving others, telling lies, or half-truths or not the whole truth.
- Hypocrisy: a desire not to be known for what really is. Personal deception
- Envy: a desire for some privilege or blessing that belongs to another with resentment that another has it and you don't. Usually this indicates disappointment with God
- Slander: the desire for revenge and self-enhancement, often driven by the deeper desire to deflect attention from our own failings. The worse light we can put another in by slander, the less our own darkness shows. And of course slander is almost always in the context where the person spoken of, cannot give their side of the story
- These vices are what we are to grow away from.

Crave

- Rather we crave the spiritual milk of the lord's kindness. See the interplay between craving milk and tasting the kindness of the Lord. The kindness of God leads us to repentance.
- "First of all, Peter is not thinking of milk as infant diet to be replaced by meat. In Peter's figure the milk of the abiding word is simply the believer's necessary food." (Ed Clowney)
- In the Word, we find Jesus and the Good News about Him. So, the milk is not simply moral instruction, it is a revelation and a declaration of the kindness of God to us in Jesus Christ.
- Growth in confidence in the goodness of God, the kindness of God, leads to growth, because growth unto salvation is always growth in and by faith.
- So, when we forget the Lord's kindness, we tend toward the old ways that we are supposed to have outgrown. Growth is appropriate and the ultimate sign of life in the believer.

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.