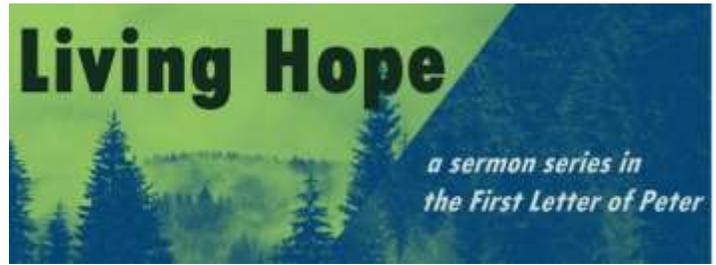




Worship Study Guide for the week of October 18, 2015



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: *Set Your Hope*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 1:13-25](#).

The Drama of Life is Competing Hopes

- "The imperatives of Christian living always begin with 'therefore.'" (Ed Clowney)
- "'Therefore, having girded up the loins of your mind'—it's an image of a person wearing flowing garments tucking the garments into his belt so that he can run and move about freely and quickly without tripping over his clothes. And the part of you that is to be freed by this girding up is your mind—'the loins of your mind.' Then he goes on: 'And being sober'—it's an image of not being drunk when it comes to spiritual things. It implies alertness, and evaluating things correctly, because you see clearly, and your mind isn't numb with intoxicating influences. Then comes the main verb, and for the first time in this letter it's an imperative. It's a command: 'Hope fully.' Or: 'Fix your hope completely.' So the first command in this letter is an action you do with your mind and your heart. It's a command to hope. Hope is not an action of the body. It is an experience of the soul. Peter is commanding us to experience hope." (John Piper)

1.) Set Your Hope Fully

- A clear-cut and decisive action.
- There is a reality to be recognized not a utopian dream that we must realize. We fix our eyes and our thoughts and our dreams all on Christ and his first and second coming and all that means.
- God has chosen you
- God has caused you to be born again to a living hope
- God is keeping an inheritance for you imperishable, undefiled, and unfading
- God is keeping you through faith so that you won't lose that inheritance
- God is refining your faith by fire so that you and he will receive praise and glory and honor
- You are living lives of love and faith and joy in Christ
- Prophets and angels long/longed to see all that God's grace is going to do in your life

2.) Gird Up the Hips of Your Minds

- In the truth that though we are pilgrims, wanderers and exiles we are travelling in the hope and reality of our Exodus.
- "In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover." (Exodus 12:11)

3.) Self-Controlled Lives

- Obedient children live lives of hope.
- This is not pie in the sky, but rather a rejection of what would numb us of the great reality of the redemption of us and our fallen world.

- Because God gets the last word in Christ hope drives our living.
- Grace has reigned, is reigning and will reign.
- I grieve now in hope
- “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words. (I Thessalonians 4)
- I need not dabble in lesser hopes.

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.