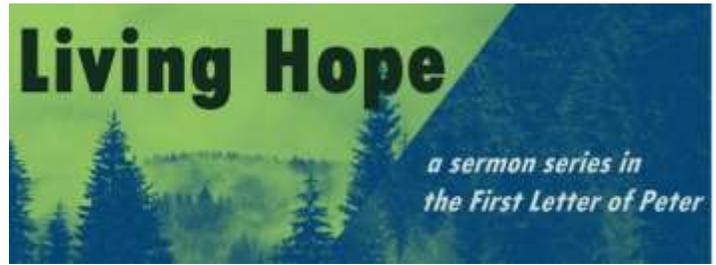




Worship Study Guide for the week of November 1, 2015



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: *Imperishable*

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

A Quick Review

- Peter (in light of the great blessing poured out on us) wants us to live in hope, holiness, fear & love
- The first and the last of these probably sound attractive to us, while the second and third, not so much.
- Today we will look at the last two.
- How does fear fit with hope & love?
- The answer has to do with the value of our redemption.

An Old Testament Illustration

- "And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. And David said longingly, 'Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!' Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the Lord and said, 'Far be it from me, O Lord, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?' Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did. In David's mind only the Lord was worthy of such a sacrifice, it represented the very lives, the very blood of his men." (*II Samuel 23:13-17*)
- Our ransom is costly and only the Lord could pay it.
- Psalm 34 (which Peter had in mind a lot) says: "The Lord redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him."
- We could only offer a perishable, a corruptible ransom. The Lamb of God, spotless and without blemish is the only sacrifice that will do, therefore because we have been ransomed from a Christ-less eternity and a futile and vain past, we literally tremble and are awestruck by the price that has been paid.
- So I dare not act like (trust and hope in lesser things) I am not precious and that the Lamb offered for me is not of infinite value. This fear is manifest among us as we love one another because we have been loved with such a costly love. We hear and believe the Word that is proclaimed to us and we love sincerely, earnestly and purely.

So What is This Love?

- True love is always tied to Christ. "And this is love, not that we loved Christ, but that he loved us and gave his life as an atoning sacrifice for us."
- While we were yet sinners, Christ dies for us.
- It requires so much more than a sentiment of goodwill or an unconditional affirmation. All I sacrifice here is perhaps my principles.

- It means laying down our lives.
- It means bearing burdens.
- It means bearing with one another.
- It means loving the unlovely, the ungrateful, the undeserving.
- I am moved to do this when I see the costly nature of the love demonstrated in time and space by the lamb of God for me.

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.