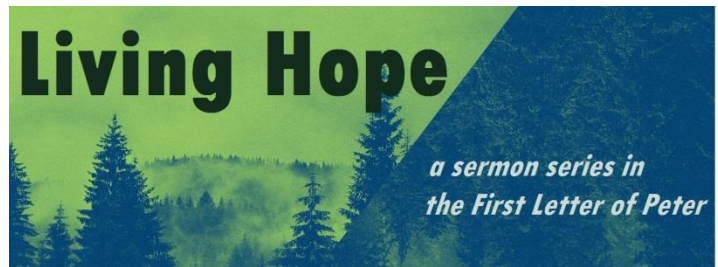




Worship Study Guide

for the week of August 30, 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: Church

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

What do these Exiles need to know First and Foremost?

- That they are known and loved not because of performance, ethnic identity, gifts or talents, or their suffering
- But because He (the Triune God) the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has loved them, is loving them and will love them and is at work to demonstrate that love from eternity in time and space in their lives right now.

Elect Exiles According to the Foreknowledge of God the Father

- "The cause of their salvation is not that they reached out to a distant God, but that God chose to relate to them and form them into a people, his people. Thus the use of the term 'Father' for God is especially apt, for it indicates the loving concern with which God chose to know them" (Peter Davids)
- These Christians are God's chosen people because he has known them from all eternity. Jesus Christ was foreknown by the Father before the world was created. (He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you) 1 Peter 1:20.
- "The chosen people of Christ are also foreknown by the Father. Their inclusion in the people of God is no accident, no afterthought, but God's purpose from the beginning. Those who are foreknown by God are foreknown in and with Christ. The expression *foreknowledge* does not mean that God had information in advance about Christ, or about his elect. Rather it means that both Christ and his people were the objects of God's loving concern from all eternity." (Ed Clowney)

How This is Practical

- In (by means of) the sanctification of the Spirit
 - Our relationship with God is effected by the Spirit
 - This sanctification has two primary meanings:
 - A cleansing from past sin
 - A lifestyle that expresses our identity as God's chosen in practical holiness
- For obedience to Jesus Christ.
 - Such love demands a response. That response is faith that results in obedience.
- For sprinkling by his blood.
 - These exiles are the concern of God in the world and bare the mark of that concern, that covenant.

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.