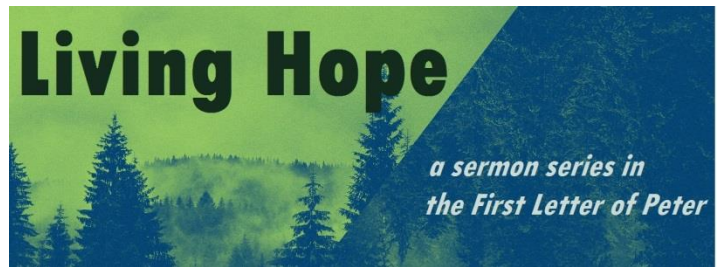




## Worship Study Guide

for the week of August 23, 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: *Elect Exiles*

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

### Where do I belong?

- Actually, where do we belong would be better.
- "Christians are the elect of God and thus only temporarily resident in the present world... This makes clear their status as 'resident aliens' so long as they remain in the world. Their existence receives its definition and direction from the future, not from the present, from God, not from the world. Yet for a time they are in the world and beset by its claims and contingencies, transitory as those are. For people facing persecution it must have been extremely comforting to realize that although they were rejected where they were living, they did belong somewhere; their hope was to travel in that direction." (Peter Davids)

### How does one live as a resident alien? Not as one looking back but as one looking forward...

1. Because of us, the world is blessed, even when it mocks us.
  - [Psalm 137](#)
  - [Jeremiah 29:4-7](#)
  - Ironically, it the wanderers who will inherit the earth. Can you see the kind of posture we are to have?
2. While I experience difficulty and blessing, this home is passing away, no matter how solid and permanent it may seem.
  - "For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come." ([Hebrews 13:14](#))
  - Peter writes from 'Babylon': "She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son" ([1 Peter 5:13](#))
3. I am a traveler.
  - Are you stuck?

## 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.