



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of July 1, 2018

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.

Numbers 32:1-42 “Sin and the Community”

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 32:1-42](#).

- Thus far in our story of the people of God getting to the Promised Land there have been many obstacles. Often these obstacles focus on what the people do not have:
 - Water
 - Good food
 - Courage
- In today’s story the impediment is what they have. The problem is a misplaced identity.
- “Do I define myself by what I have, not by those to whom I belong? Do I ever ask the question of what does my responsibility to those in my community have to say about this? Each person is a self-created choosing individual, pursuing individual desires. There is no sense that we are part of a common flow connecting the past, present and future; instead, each of us creates our own worldview anew. Over the decades, that sense of we-ness began to turn into a sense of I-ness or you-ness. You can see it in today’s commencement clichés: Follow your passion, march to the beat of your own drummer, listen to your own heart, you do you.” (*David Brooks*)
- Moses has a very strong reaction.
- The compromise will lead to issues.
- The problem with seeing: Verse 1
- What I can see and what I can’t.

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.

*Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
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