



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of September 30, 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.

Matthew 18:21-35 As I Had Mercy On You

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Matthew 18:21-35](#).

- Again the context of this parable tells us much...
 - In [Matthew 18:1-6](#) Jesus answers the question, “Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
 - [Matthew 18:7-9](#) He warns about sin and causing folk to sin
 - [Matthew 18:10-14](#), the retrieval of the lost sheep
 - [Matthew 18:15-20](#), how to retrieve the wandering brother or sister
- Peter is concerned now about how to limit how much he forgives...
- Jesus has just said, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother...”
 - There is a settling of accounts
 - An impossible debt
 - The king has pity not because of hope of repayment
 - A comparably small debt
 - A severe warning
- The context of all my relationships
- My self-view
 - How do I bear witness?
 - I have always liked the phrase “nursing a grudge,” because many people are tender of their resentments, as of the things nearest their hearts.
 - “There is a saying that to understand is to forgive, but that is an error, so Papa used to say. You must forgive in order to understand. Until you forgive, you defend yourself against the possibility of understanding. ... If you forgive, he would say, you may indeed still not understand, but you will be ready to understand, and that is the posture of grace.” (*Marilynne Robinson, Home*)

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
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons*