



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of December 3, 2017

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.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 “Jesus, Our Righteousness”

⁵“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness’.”

- What are you looking forward to these days?
- Read Jeremiah 23:5-6. The prophet Jeremiah spoke directly to what God had promised and to the future His people longed for. What things were coming in the days ahead?
- A “branch” is a shoot which sprouts from the roots of a fallen tree. What does this metaphor imply about the earthly kingdoms of Israel & Judah? What does it imply about the promised future King? What are the characteristics of this “righteous Branch”?
- What is “righteousness”? What are the meanings of the three uses of “righteous” in this passage?
 - What does it mean that the LORD “will raise up...a righteous Branch”?
 - What does it mean that the Branch “shall execute...righteousness”?
 - What does it mean that “the LORD is our righteousness”?
- Are you righteous? In what way? How do you know?
- If you believe God is in the business of declaring sinners righteous, how does that change the way you live?
- Re-read this week’s passage. Pray together for God’s Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, and for the reign of King Jesus, the righteous Branch. Ask the LORD for grace to be anchored & strengthened by what He has promised & done.

WEPC is taking a break from *Numbers* for the season of Advent, but *Worship Study Guides* will continue to be published each Sunday:

- Dec 10: Jesus, Our Judge (Luke 21:25-35)
- Dec 17: Jesus, Our Scandal (Matthew 11:2-11)
- Dec 24: Jesus, Our Sacrifice (John 1:19-29)
- Dec 31: Resume the Book of Numbers

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

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Jeremiah 23:5-6](#).

- The context: “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture, declares the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. Then I shall gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and I will bring them back to the fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them and they will fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. “ ([Jeremiah 23:1-4](#))
- The people of God have sinned and as part of the consequences of their sin is bad leaders who only compound their sin.
- “Behold the days are coming...” (5a)
 - The best (and perhaps hardest part of Advent)
- “A righteous Branch...” (5b)
 - That which sprouts from a fallen or apparently dead tree
- “He shall reign and deal wisely and execute justice...” (5c)
 - What we all want from those in authority over us
 - Salvation and security
 - What makes heaven so rich?
- “The LORD is our righteousness” (6)
 - How this is accomplished.