



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of August 6, 2017

WEPC small groups meet 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: "Examine Yourself"

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [II Corinthians 13:5-10](#).

- In today's text Paul urges an examination, and tells the Corinthians and us what he prays for them, that they would not do wrong and that they would be restored, built up and not torn down.
- We must remember the people to whom he is writing. The Corinthian church was full of divisions, strife, envy, drunkenness, and immorality (1 Cor. 1:11; 3:1-3; 5:9-6:20; 11:21, 30).
- So there is much to be addressed and much for which they must repent.
- First, the examination: not just introspection, but coming to grips with the fact that they need to remember that Jesus Christ lives in them corporately and individually.
- Do you not realize....
- This recognition is the engine of change for every Christian.
- Second, look at the intercession of Paul for the Corinthians, many of whom are his enemies.
- That they not do wrong. Not just that they get along with him but that they repent and seek the effects of the living Christ in their lives and fellowship.
- He wants not just a restoration of their fellowship with him but a coming to completion in the work Jesus has begun in them.
- The effects of sin, my loss of communion with God is demonstrated in my alienation from myself, from my environment and in my relationships. I may have grown so used to this that it requires some self-examination to get at what is going on in my life. A quick look at Genesis 3.
- When God confronts Adam
- "The woman whom you gave to be with me... "
- Where is there disorder in my interior life?
- Where is there disorder in my relational life?
- How does it manifest itself?
- Thomas Watson said, "Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet".
- The prayers Paul is praying is that Christ would be sweet. He is in us and that is what moves us to wholeness.

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](http://www.wepc.org/archivedsermons)*