



Worship Study Guide for the week of July 24, 2016

PSALMS

WEPC Small Group Network

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, 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: *Covered*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Psalm 32](#).

Our sins are horrible. Often done in secret, even the recesses of our mind, we fear discovery. If it becomes known what we have done, what we have thought, who we truly are, we will be exposed as frauds, hypocrites. So we hide who we are and what we have done. We hide it from others, and even ourselves. We lie.

And we fool many, maybe all. But God is not fooled. He cannot be fooled. He sees. He hears. He knows. Who we are, what we have done, cannot be covered from the penetrating gaze of His all-seeing eye.

What shall we do? There is only one thing to do: Confess. Come clean. Cover up our sins no more. *"I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin."*

An amazing thing happens when we stop covering our own sins, and confess them: What we have uncovered, He covers. *"Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."* He who sees all things chooses not to see what He has covered. He who knows all things forgets. He who marks every sin in His book blots them out.

Our works cannot justify us. Our efforts at covering up our sins always fail. But God justifies the ungodly. He covers up the things we deserve to have exposed for our shame, ridicule, and expulsion. He does not do this on a whim. It does not come easily. What is covered on us was exposed in Jesus. They literally stripped Him of His garments, just as He was stripped of all honor. Put to death like a murderer. Beaten as a rebel. All for you. So you could be covered, clothed with righteousness in Baptism. When you come to this church for the last time, we will cover up your dead body with the funeral pall, confessing that the God who covered your sins in Christ will raise up your body on the last day to live forever in His kingdom.

So blessed are you, *"against whom the LORD counts no iniquity."* That is the reason why you should *"Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"* +INJ+

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.

Kevin Greene, 2016