



Worship Study Guide for the week of June 12, 2016



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: *What Sort of People*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [II Peter 3:11-14](#).

- The Bible is not a text to be mastered, but a Word intent on shaping our lives, on mastering us. The Gospel is so big and so good, it touches every part of our lives. It even addresses the shiny, wonderful and beautiful things in this world. Why would God destroy all that he has made and at one point declared good?
- Because we attach ourselves to the wrong things and we attach ourselves too much to the good things.
- What kind of race are we in? The Tour de France?
- There are two clear messages in this text:
 - The world we love is going to burn, therefore investing in this world is investing in something(s) that have no future.
 - The future we wait for and hasten will be more wonderful than anything we have experienced in this life.
- The day of the Lord will come like a thief. How then do we prepare? (see Jesus' words Matthew 24:42-43)
- Preparation comes by "lives of holiness and godliness and being found without spot or blemish and at peace".
- Most people try to find meaning in life by building something that's not just here today and gone tomorrow. We strive to overcome our sense of finiteness by producing something. Some people build equity and get a great sense of power and success by looking at their house and thinking through their portfolio. Some build professional reputations through skill and hard work and get a sense of power and success from their heavy responsibilities and the numbers of people that look to them for leadership. Some people build artistic expressions and exalt in what they have created. Some, more simply, build hobbies and collections (of coins or beetles or buttons) and gain a sense of superiority from the size of their collection or the richness of their garden or the shine of their car or the wonders of their new Apple computer. The false teachers in 2 Peter lined their pockets with money (2:14-16); elevated themselves above authority (2:10), built a reputation as astute interpreters of Paul's hard letters (3:16; 2:18), and gave themselves to sexual licentiousness. Peter's response to us and them is this: it's going to be burned up. The implication of verse 11 is this: the only things that are going to survive the fires of judgment on this earth are the expressions of holiness and godliness." (*John Piper*)
- Repent of the shame of less
- Repent of the sin of covetousness
- Repent of the sin of impact
- Marvel that God uses temporary things to bring about eternal glory.
- What are we doing to maintain the peace and purity of the church?
- Remember Jesus: He knows the vast temptations these things have for us.
- He endured the shame for the joy set before him.

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.