



## Worship Study Guide for the week of May 22, 2016



### WEPC Small Group Network

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, [kevin@wepc.org](mailto: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: *The Lord Knows How*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [II Peter 2:1-10](#).

- "His judgement cometh and that right soon." (Stephen King, *The Shawshank Redemption*, quoting the Apocrypha)
- The first chapter in II Peter is all about ensuring our place in the work and heart of Christ. He has given us promises and He is fulfilling those in Christ to bring us safely home.
- This chapter is all about warnings. It contains little or no commands simply descriptions of judgment.
- The main point of the chapter is a warning that destruction awaits the false teachers and their followers.
- vv. 1-3; Just as in the Old Testament false teachers will and have arisen. Not just a problem of false teaching but of false teaching leading to ' indulging in the lust of defiling passion and despising authority'.
- vv. 4-10; 3 examples (wicked angels see Genesis 6, Noah and his family, Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah) of "condemnation not being idle or destruction not sleeping".
- What is the false teaching and what is the false lifestyle that the false teaching brings about?
- It is denying the master who bought them which leads to despising authority, after all it is a master who bought us. It is denying that "I am not my own , but belong body and soul to my faithful savior Jesus Christ".
- "They are denying the Master who bought them. Now what does this mean? As with most heresies, Jesus Christ is in some way being diminished. Some aspect of his personhood or his work is being denied. But Peter never tells us what aspect. In fact, you get the impression from chapter 2 that the error of the false teachers was an error in morality, not doctrine. But the two are never really separate. How you live and how you esteem Christ always rise and fall together. It is possible to live in such a disobedient way that Christ is scorned and belittled by our very behavior. That seems to be what was happening here." (John Piper)
- The point of verses 4–10 is to warn us that since God has punished unrighteousness in the past, he will punish it in the future.
- The angels: Peter takes what would have been a familiar story both from the Bible and from the Apocrypha to make his point.
- The world: God judged the world with water, even as Noah as later tradition asserted, preached righteousness and was troubled by what he saw.
- Sodom and Gomorrah: Lot also, was troubled by what he saw and was delivered from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- In all three cases, judgment eventually falls. In the latter 2 cases God is able and does deliver his own. In both of these cases the deliverance is all about grace. Neither Noah nor Lot is getting their righteousness on their own.
- The people of God are never immune from false teaching. While delayed, judgment is coming.
- "When it says the Lord knows how to deliver the godly (v. 9), it doesn't mean he only delivers the perfect. Lot was far from perfect. If you put your trust in Jesus Christ and press on to love what he loves, "then you will never fall, and there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (John Piper)

## 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*