



Worship Study Guide for the week of February 7, 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: *Likewise, Wives*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 3:1-7](#).

- "Love, by its nature, should be strongest when it is personal and intimate. To make love universal, to give no priority to the near over the far, is to denude love of its texture and warmth. It is really a way of avoiding love because you make yourself invulnerable." (*David Brooks*)
- A couple of notes regarding context and culture:
- Remember this section of 1 Peter is primarily about how Christians interface with those who are not Christians.
- See 2:12 their "good manner of life among the nations"
- In this society husbands were in charge of religion and the expectation was that the household followed the husband's desire.
- "Peter clearly focuses his address on women whose husbands are not Christians (not that he would give different advice to women whose husbands were Christians), and he addresses them as independent moral agents whose decision to turn to Christ he supports and whose goal to win their husbands he encourages. This is quite a revolutionary attitude for that culture." (*Peter Davids*)
- The classic example of this is found in Monica, the mother of St. Augustine. Augustine writes of his mother: "She served her husband as her master, and did all she could to win him for You, speaking to him of You by her conduct, by which You made her beautiful...Finally, when her husband was at the end of his earthly span, she gained him for You." (*Confessions 9:19-22*)
- So Peter sees submission not only as beautifying, but redeeming.
- What submission is not:
 - Putting the husband in place of Christ ("submit yourselves for the Lord's sake")
 - Giving up independent thought
 - Giving up efforts to influence or guide her husband (however nagging is usually counter-productive)
 - Giving in to every demand
 - One does not submit because one is not as smart or competent
 - Fearful
 - Inconsistent with equality in Christ (See Jesus submitting to his parents) wives are heirs with you of the gracious gift of life". There is submission in role and equality in dignity and importance.
- Submission is:
 - An inner quality of gentleness. This is primarily for God because God delights in being trusted!
 - Acknowledging a God-ordained authority. There must always be mutual consideration and deference. "Likewise" does not mean exactly the same as servants to masters, but the same in motive ("for the Lord's sake")
- Next week we will look at husbands. But for now let's focus on how powerful submission is.
- It is the tool God uses to 'WIN'.

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