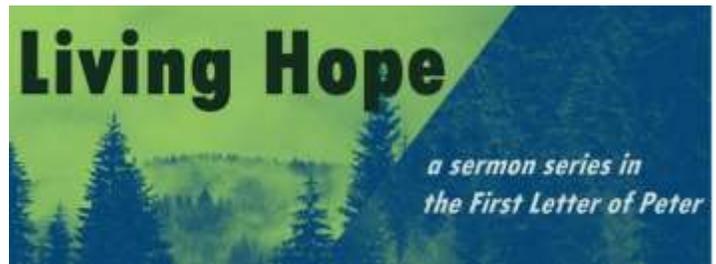




Worship Study Guide for the week of October 11, 2015



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: *This Salvation*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 1:10-12](#).

The Value of Our Salvation

- This is how Peter ends this section of the letter before he begins the next part. He finishes this section with a description of the value of our salvation. Verse 13 begins with "Therefore".

How to Read the Old Testament

- "Peter, like others in the early church saw as the greatest importance of the prophets not their rebukes of the errors of their day, but their predictions of a future day of salvation and deliverance." (Peter Davids)
- "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#))
- "For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." ([Isaiah 53:2-6](#))
- "When the Spirit of Christ told Isaiah to write that, Isaiah said, 'O, Lord, who? O, Lord, when? How long, O Lord, how long?'" (John Piper)
- Christ Himself predicted His sufferings and subsequent glory.

What Does This Mean for Us?

- This has been on the Christ's mind for a long time.
- The prophets longed to see what we see
- The angels wonder and long to look into the salvation that is ours.
- The Holy Spirit is the ultimate preacher of the Good News.
- We may not have a place here, but we have a place in the heart and mind of God. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel served us. Gabriel and Michael serve us.
- In the Gospel, suffering always precedes glory.
- The sequence of our lives follows the sequence of Christ's life. The Christ of glory is the Christ of the cross.

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.