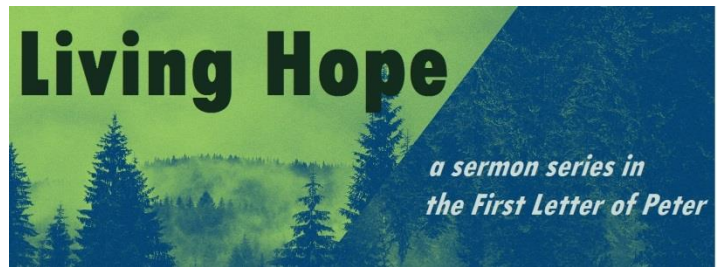




## Worship Study Guide

for the week of September 13, 2015



## 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: Inheritance

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 1:3-4](#).

### What to Enjoy

- "Writing is selection." (*John McPhee*)
- There are no commandments in the first 12 verses of this letter. No demands or requirements or directions. What Peter is doing here is not telling us what to do but telling us what to enjoy. He is not exhorting, he is exulting.
- He is telling us what God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit has done is doing and will do for us the 'elect exiles', for His glory and for our joy.
  1. God is great in mercy
  2. God causes us to be born again
  3. God gives us a living hope
  4. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead
  5. God promises an indestructible inheritance
  6. God is keeping that inheritance so that it will never perish or soil or fade

### Inheritance

- "Imperishable...undefiled...unfading...kept in heaven"
- Contrast this inheritance with the inheritance of the Old Testament people of God.
- The Land: God promised the land to Abraham and this promise of a home 'flowing with milk and honey' sustained the patriarchs and the people as they wandered in the wilderness.
- But what happened?
- "The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered; for the Lord has spoken this word. The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish." ([Isaiah 24:3-4](#))
- "And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. ([Jeremiah 2:7](#))
- This is what Peter has in mind at the end of chapter 1 when he quotes Isaiah again: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." ([Isaiah 40:8](#))
- Peter says, "Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.'" ([1 Peter 1:23-25](#))
- And this Word is the Good News that was preached to you
- Because is kept and completed in heaven, nothing on earth can affect it
- Compare this to my dreams

## 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.