



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of August 12, 2018

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.

Matthew 13:1-23 *The Secret & Bearing Fruit*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Matthew 13:1-23](#).

- The Parable of the Sower stands out in the Gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke include it.
- We are so familiar with it and the imagery that we find it hard to believe that the disciples and the crowd had a hard time understanding it.
- In context, it comes out of nowhere and would have certainly seemed mysterious.
- The mysteriousness of it all.
- Who is the Sower?
- What is the seed? (small, it disappears, it dies)
- The ‘growing’ process (the seed continues to act like seed)
- All of the different responses to the seed are to be expected.
- What makes “good soil”, good’?
- The end result is:
 - All of this is first and foremost from God Himself
 - Fruitfulness
 - Harvest

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.

*Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons*