



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of August 19, 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.

Luke 16:1-13 God & Money

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 16:1-13](#).

- Last week, Jesus used agriculture to illustrate truth, this week we look at commerce.
- If the Parable of the Sower is the central parable by Jesus, then the Parable of the Unjust Servant is perhaps the hardest to understand.
- The characters: The rich man, the manager, the debtors
- What is really happening here?
 - “wasting”?
 - Why isn't the manager in jail?
 - Jesus' strange application
- Every one of us has a problem with 'unrighteous wealth'. All of us struggle with hearts that serve 'mammon'. What makes it unrighteous?
- Like the manager, what we have we have been given.
- There is a real and serious error in us that increases sin and lessens our ability to do good. It is the belief that whatever comes into our possession we are the master or lord of it. We are not lords of our stuff: Our relationships, our homes, our stuff, our money.
- It is as if we are temporary guests in the house we have lived in for 24 years.
- We grasp at things like they are ours so that when we give a gift we think it is our gift when we are simply doing with God's stuff what He has told us to do in the first place.
- There is an accounting.
- The Lord is saying I give you these things, be faithful with these things. This keeps us from coveting.
- The waster is commended because he sees what is happening and he takes decisive action.
- The key to understanding all of this is verse 9, and the concept of failure. All of us are headed toward a catastrophic failure. How do we prepare for that?
- We trust the generosity and mercy of the Lord. (which leads us to be generous with others)
- Jesus doesn't reduce debt, He cancels it.

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