



## A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of August 26, 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 12:13-21 *Our Problem with Money*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 12:13-21](#).

- Today's parable arises from a question, a cry for justice. There is already a broken relationship between the man and his brother, rather than ask for reconciliation, he just seeks his share. Jesus rebukes this and proceeds to tell this parable.
- Our lives do not consist in what we own.
- “Wealthy, poor or in between, we are all of us, in Jesus’ eyes, nothing but unreconstructed rich people. We clutch at our lives rather than open our hands.” (*Robert Farrar Capon*)
- “There was a certain rich man”; He is already rich
- “Whose land produced plentifully”; He didn’t work any harder...it was a gift
- “He thought to himself”; He is isolated, who else is he speaking to
- “I will tear down barns and build larger ones”; No mention of anyone else. “The bellies of the poor were much safer storerooms than his barns” (*Augustine*)
- “But God said to him”; Our lives are not ours, but on loan from God
- “Not rich toward God”; What does that mean?
- So that leaves us with a question. Which Jesus answers in the rest of the passage:
- “And he said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” ([Luke 12:22-34](#))
- Do not forget that his parable is an answer to a request for justice in a broken relationship; The rich man himself is isolated.
- The importance of one another in these kinds of decisions: “I become wealthy toward God when...”

## 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](mailto:kevin@wepc.org)  
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit [www.wepc.org/archivedsermons](http://www.wepc.org/archivedsermons)