



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of February 24, 2019

WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, February 24, 2019

[Genesis 45:3-11, 15](#) *Joseph Forgives His Brothers*
[Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40](#) *Those Who Wait for the LORD Shall Inherit the Land*
[I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50](#) *Sown Perishable, Raised Imperishable*
[Luke 6:27-38](#) *Love Your Enemies*

Monday, February 25, 2019

[Psalm 38](#) *Be Reconciled to God*
[Genesis 33:1-17](#) *Jacob & Esau Reconcile*
[I Corinthians 11:2-16](#) *Reconciled Lives in the Church*

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

[Psalm 38](#) *Do Not Forsake Me*
[I Samuel 24:1-22](#) *David Spares Saul's Life*
[I Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33](#) *Examine & Discern*

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

[Psalm 38](#) *The Source of Forgiveness*
[Leviticus 5:1-13](#) *The Cost of Forgiveness*
[Luke 17:1-4](#) *The Scope of Forgiveness*

Thursday, February 28, 2019

[Psalm 99](#) *The LORD Answered Them*
[Deuteronomy 9:1-5](#) *The LORD Swore to Your Fathers*
[Acts 3:11-16](#) *The God of Our Fathers Glorified Jesus*

Friday, March 1, 2019

[Psalm 99](#) *Holy is He*
[Deuteronomy 9:6-14](#) *You Provoked the LORD to Wrath*
[Acts 10:1-8](#) *The Vision of Cornelius*

Saturday, March 2, 2019

[Psalm 99](#) *Worship At His Holy Mountain*
[Deuteronomy 9:15-24](#) *The Mountain Was Burning With Fire*
[Luke 10:21-24](#) *Blessed Are The Eyes That See What You See*

God Sent Me

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Genesis 45:3-11, 15](#)

³ And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. ⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'...¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

- Remember Joseph's story: Favorite of his father, Fancy clothes, Bold dreams, Sold, Accused, Imprisoned, Forgotten, Raised.
- Remember Joseph's family background: His father (with the help of his grandmother) defrauded and stole. His maternal grandfather defrauded his father. His father schemed to defraud his grandfather.
- So, when Joseph not only forgives his brothers but reconciles with them, it remains a remarkable thing: Did they ask for his forgiveness? Did they repent in the way in which we tend to define repentance? How could they make it up to him? So how do we get at this?
- An internal look, and then a Godward look. First, the internal look: "For a long time I used to think this a silly, straw-splitting distinction: how could you hate what a man did and not hate the man? But years later it occurred to me that there was one man to whom I had been doing this all my life—namely myself. However much I might dislike my own cowardice or conceit or greed, I went on loving myself... Just because I loved myself, I was sorry to find that I was the sort of man who did those things. Consequently, Christianity does not want us to reduce by one atom the hatred we feel for cruelty and treachery. We ought to hate them. Not one word of what we have said about them needs to be unsaid. But it does want us to hate them in the same way in which we hate things in ourselves: being sorry that the man should have done such things, and hoping, if it is anyway possible, that somehow, sometime, somewhere, he can be cured and made human again." (C.S. Lewis)
- Now, a Godward look: "This is a remarkable passage, in which we are taught that the right course of events is never so disturbed by the depravity and wickedness of men, but that God can direct them to a good end. Joseph was sold by his brethren; for what reason, but because they wished, by any means whatever, to ruin and annihilate him? The same work is ascribed to God, but for a very different end; namely, that in a time of famine the family of Jacob might have an unexpected supply of food. Therefore he willed that Joseph should be as one dead, for a short time, in order that he might suddenly bring him forth from the grave, as the preserver of life." (John Calvin)
- Think of how Joseph-- after all these years-- came to be able to be and do.
- Faith grounded in the love of God for us issues in peace and patience and ultimately kindness to those who have done us wrong.
- Patience, then, is not a quality that we can cultivate, an attitude that we can adopt, or a method that we can employ. To be patient is nothing other than to have faith. Not a generic faith—an optimistic attitude, a faith that "everything will work out"—but an absolute contentment in our status as children of God the Father through our union into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, by which we receive the Holy Spirit. Patience, then, is not thinking that "good things come to those who wait," but a confidence in the One whom we wait upon.
- If He loves us, then we have everything, though we lose everything there is to lose in this world.

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons
Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

