

WEPC Missional Community Group Network

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

WEPC's Missional Community Groups 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. Want to go in a different direction with group questions? Get some guidance [here](#).

Sermon :: Table, Garden, Betrayal

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Mark 14:12-72](#)

Ever since the first calling of the Galilean fishermen in [Mark 1:16](#), this has been not simply the story of Jesus, but the story of Jesus and His disciples, a close-knit group, almost like a family, who have travelled, lived, slept and shared everything together. The Passover meal, was a celebration of the great deliverance by God of His people, celebrated in community. One did this with one's closest friends and family. Jesus' announcement in v.18 isolates Jesus, even though He is surrounded by others.

Jesus is Standing More and More Alone

- His announcement
- His prediction
- His prayer (why) "shuddering in anguish" (v33), "It is enough" (v41)
- His trial
- Ultimately His death deserted by His 'Abba'

Jesus Blesses His Utterly Clueless Disciples

- His prediction and preparation (not one says "Lord that must be awful for You!", rather "Is it me?")
- Three times asleep
- Jesus addresses him as Simon, not Peter (v37); "the rock" crumbles
- His blessing
- "When the leader of the meal recites the blessing over the bread... and breaks it and hands a piece to each member to eat, the meaning of the action is that each of the members is made a recipient of the blessing by this eating...the same is true of the cup of blessing which is the cup of wine over which grace has been spoken...drinking from it mediates a share in the blessing." (*Jeremias*)

Jesus is Determined (Faithful Resignation) to Accomplish His Purpose

- No defense
- Drinking the "cup" from Abba
- Any sense that God accepts you apart from the atoning work of Jesus is not Christian. Trusting that you are the Lord's on the sole basis that Jesus died on the Cross is at the heart of the Gospel.

Going Deeper in God's Worship & Further in Christ's Mission

Warm Up

- Share one thing you observed as you participated in the Lord's Supper today. It can be something you saw around you, something you saw in your heart, or something you saw by faith.

Read [Mark 14:12-72](#)

This week's worship study guide looks a little different in light of the longer Scripture passage and its repeated themes. Have the group read the passage out loud and in its entirety—this will take some time, but be patient and hear God's Word. Take turns reading around the circle; have each member read several verses until the reading of the passage is complete.

Immediately respond by entering into a time of prayer. Thank Jesus for who He is, and for all He has done and suffered for us.

Then discuss a number of the following "big picture" questions to reflect on this week's Scripture:

- 1) How was the way that Jesus faced death different than the way that others, even the early Christians, faced death? What was different about the death that Jesus was facing?
- 2) At Gethsemane Jesus is beginning to *taste* what He will experience on the Cross--and it goes far beyond physical torture and death. What is Jesus beginning to taste?
- 3) How is God's anger a function of His love and goodness? In what way is God's wrath a measure of how much He loves you?
- 4) What role did Jesus' desires play in his willingness to endure great suffering?
- 5) Jesus wrestled spiritually, and He obeyed His Heavenly Father in love. Has the Holy Spirit ever led you down a similar path? Describe that time.
- 6) What is the difference between our deepest desires and our loudest desires?
- 7) How does Jesus' love help us to trust the Father in our suffering?