



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of December 10, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What is something you have had to set aside in this this season of life? Why?

I Corinthians 9:1-18

¹Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? ²If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴Do we not have the right to eat and drink? ⁵Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

⁸Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? ⁹For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. ¹¹If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹²If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. ¹³Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? ¹⁴In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

¹⁵But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for

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boasting. ¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

- **Paul moves from freedom based on knowledge (*I Corinthians 8:1-13*) to rights based on status. What rights, based on Paul's position as an apostle, has he set aside? (4-5, 11-12, 14, 18)**
- **What motivates Paul to set aside his rights as an apostle? (12, 15-18)**
- **How might receiving payment for vocational ministry hinder the Gospel? (12)**
- **What does Paul mean by "necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (16)**
- **Have you ever set aside your rights to avoid putting an obstacle in the way of the Gospel? What was that like? Is there something you need to set aside now for the sake of the Gospel?**
- **Jesus is Lord of all. So, [He set aside His glory](#) that we might be given [the full rights of the sons of God](#). Reflect on this week's passage together, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.**

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www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide

Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
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WEEK OF DECEMBER 10TH

O Key of David

SING



READ

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

REFLECT

*We need the key of David to unlock
the chains that imprison us.*

— Tish Harrison Warren

Have you ever gotten locked in
somewhere or stuck? What could
you do? What did you need?

The phrase “key of David” is
referenced twice in the Bible:
[Revelation 3:7](#) and [Isaiah 22:22](#). In
both of these passages, **the One
who holds the key has authority
and power**, and we look to Jesus
as the fulfillment of our powerful
king who ‘closes the path to
misery (hell)’ and ‘opens wide our
heavenly home,’ giving us access
to heaven through His death and
resurrection on the cross. **Without
Jesus, the door is closed.** And
without His power, we can’t
overcome our sin.

Our sin can often feel like chains
holding us down – but [Isaiah 58:6](#)
says that **God’s heart desires
to loose us from these wicked
chains and free the needy (us!)**
Why does it matter that God loves
to free us from sin AND has the
power to defeat it?

PRACTICE

This coming week:

**What areas of your life do you
feel stuck or imprisoned by sin?**

Repent and turn to Jesus, and ask
Him for grace to know that He
has freed you from your sin, and
nothing can stop the work He is
doing in your heart.

**Thank God that He has made
a way for us** to come to the
heavenly home He has provided
for us, and that He has closed our
path to being eternally stuck in sin.

PRAY

O Key of David, come.
Unlock what none shall bind,
and lock what none shall loose:
the captives in the darkness
imprisoned, now set free.

Access the full WEPC Advent 2023 Devotional
[HERE](#).