

# WELCOME

November 19, 2023

We're so glad you're here!

At Gateway, we believe in joining God to transform our lives and culture to reflect His heart by:

Loving God ● Loving Each Other ● Loving His World

## GET CONNECTED

GATEWAYMERCED.ORG

### SUNDAY SERVICE - 10AM

Join us in person at: 353 E Donna Dr. Merced, CA. 95340

- Corporate Prayer | 9AM | Conference Rm
- Family Room & Nursing Room available by the restrooms
- 6 wks - Kinder | Preschool Wing
- 1st-5th grade | Rms D1-D4



Scan for YouTube

Or LIVE on our YouTube Channel

### NEW TO CHURCH?

Go to our Guest Center for next steps or scan QR code to fill out our connection card



Scan for Next Steps

### DOWNLOAD OUR CHURCHCENTER APP



- Watch past sermons or kids at home videos
- Set up payments for tithes or offerings
- Check out the available small groups
- Fill out connection card

### GATEWAY WIFI



Scan to Connect : GCC-CHURCH



Scan for WiFi

### SOCIAL MEDIA



@gatewaymerced

353 E DONNA DR MERCED, CA | (209)723-4283

# EVENTS

### WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Today we have the privilege of welcoming into membership some families who have gone through our Membership Class and are officially joining us as members, promising to respond to God's love by joining us in loving God, loving each other, and loving His world! Join us in welcoming them to the family today.

### SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS | TODAY | 2-4PM | ROOM A4&5

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? Join us for a 2-hour event called Surviving the Holidays where we talk about how to deal with grief around the holiday season.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD | BOXES DUE TODAY

Thank you for taking part in packing boxes for the children.

### NACHORDINARY THANKSGIVING FOR YOUTH

Join us tonight at 6:30-8:30PM for our annual event where middle & high school students come together and enjoy a nacho dinner along with a special time of musical worship & Thanksgiving. We hope lots of students can join us for this special night! No Crossroads this Tues., Nov. 21.

### COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

As you consider your participation in communion next week know that this table has been prepared for all who love Jesus and trust Him alone for the forgiveness of their sin. Everyone who is truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believes in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desires to live in obedience to Him, is invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS | THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

The church office will be open from 9AM to 1PM on Mon through Wed (Nov 20-22) and closed on Thur, Nov 23 and Fri, Nov 24.

### WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS ADVENT | DECEMBER 2 | 9AM-NOON

Join us on Dec. 2 from 9AM-Noon in the Worship Center as we celebrate the birth of our Savior by diving into the Christmas Story's historical and cultural context with Kristi McLelland and worship our Savior to embrace the true meaning of Christmas. Don't miss out on the fun drawings (bring cash, otherwise Venmo) and a chance to decorate your own table before the event. Scan to RSVP for event. Childcare also available with RSVP.



### Contact Me About:

- Baptism
- Becoming a Follower of Jesus
- Church Membership
- Infant/Kindergarten
- RightNow Media
- Serving at Gateway
- Elementary/Preteen
- Worship Ministry
- Youth Ministries
- College/ Young Adults
- Discover Serving
- Small Groups

Area of Interest:

### Comments, Prayer Requests:

- Confidential (Staff Only)
- Best way to Contact me:  Text  Call  Email

## POLITICS - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together" // For the week of 11-19-23*

### FOR YOU AS THE TEACHER/HOST

Remember to begin each Small Group session with a word of prayer. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this curriculum guide is to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Lord and each other through conversation that intentionally engages the weekly message.

### QUICK REVIEW

Discuss the message briefly. Did anything challenge or confuse you?

### OPENER QUESTION OR ACTIVITY:

What was your experience growing up in relation to different people groups, cultures, ethnicities or religions? What did you learn?

### SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT:

"Politics" - Compassion to Immigrants

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*(Teachers/leaders, feel the freedom to not ask every question)*

Leviticus 19:33-34; Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Ephesians 2:11-22

1. If you consider yourself a Christian, would you consider yourself also one of God's people? Is it the same as being a Jew in the Old Testament?
2. Read the Leviticus and Deuteronomy passages together. Some translations use the word "strangers" for "foreigners" but what is it about this group that God instructed His people to do in relation to them?
3. When you review the political climate in America regarding foreigners or immigrants, how do you view this issue through the Bible...or should you?
4. How easy has it been to really love the foreigner, as these passages teach?
5. Now read the Ephesians 2 passage. What is it that God has done with two completely different people groups, beliefs, culture and history? (vs 14)
6. Is "In Christ" the only way we could take different groups of people and make them "one" in America or other places in the world? What are some examples you've seen of this?
7. What are you grateful for as a "citizen", not just a foreigner? How can you establish a culture of "loving the foreigner" in your life this week?

### APPLY IT TODAY:

Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?

### Communication/Prayer Request Card

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Change in Contact Info

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- I'm new to Gateway:  1<sup>st</sup> Visit  I've been here a few times  I attend here often  I'm a member

If you are a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> time guest, how did you hear about Gateway? \_\_\_\_\_

November 19, 2023

# GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH NOVEMBER 19, 2023

