

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

For the week of 11/12/2023

### 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:** How often would your parents(or you as a parent) give you a choice and the benefits or consequences of those choices and why?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Various Passages - "Politics"

**Digging Deeper:** *(Teachers/leaders, feel the freedom to NOT ask every question.)*

Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20

1. In reviewing vrs. 11-14, what is it that "is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach"? Why is this important for us to understand today?
2. Discuss the way vrs. 15-18 describes God's plan for His people and how that translates to our world and decisions today. Would you say God is being very clear, somewhat clear, somewhat vague or very vague? Why?
3. Vrs. 16 and 18 speak about the land the Israelites are entering to possess. What correlations to the "lands" we live in today and how our faith should be lived out, can you make? What are the reasons God's Word and our response to it remain as true today as it was then?
4. Would you say the issue of abortion is a political or moral issue, and how did you come to that conclusion? As vrs. 19-20 conclude this section, how does it feel that we are back at this position of choice, to "choose life" or "choose death" in response to the issue of abortion, here in the 21st cent.?
5. What does the grace of God bring to those who may have been personally involved with abortion? Read 1 John 1:9 together to reflect upon God's grace in forgiveness...in any circumstance.

**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?