

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 11/19/2023

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: 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?