

WELCOME

December 18, 2022

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

WEEKLY SERVICE & MEETINGS

COMPLETE LISTING AT GATEWAYMERCED.ORG

SUNDAY

- Sunday Service // In Person & Live on YouTube (10AM)
*Past messages are available // www.gatewaymerced.org
- **Family Room and Nursing Room Available by the Restrooms.**
- Join us for corporate prayer // 9AM // Conference Room & Zoom
www.gatewaymerced.org/events
- 1st - 5th Grade // 10AM // Rooms D1 - D4
- 6 Weeks to Kinder // 10AM // Preschool Wing
- Catalyst High School // *ON BREAK...WILL BE BACK 1/8

TUESDAY

- Crossroads Middle School // *ON BREAK...WILL BE BACK 1/3

THURSDAY

- INSPIRE College & Young Adult // *ON BREAK

GET CONNECTED:

gatewaymerced.org/getconnected-2

GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

353 E DONNA DR // MERCED, CA 95340

PHONE: (209)723-4283 WEB: GATEWAYMERCED.ORG

FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM: @GATEWAYMERCED

GATEWAY NEWS |

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5
Come and celebrate the Eve of Christ's birth in our candlelight service on Dec. 24th at 5PM. Invite your family and loved ones!

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

Bittersweet memories. Loss of traditions. An empty seat at the table. The holiday season can trigger sadness and despair for people grieving a loss. Join us for a 2-hour event called Surviving the Holidays where we talk about how to deal with grief around the holiday season.

COMMUNION // CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

As you consider your participation in communion on Christmas Eve 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.

END OF THE YEAR JOY OFFERING

Please read the envelope provided inside the bulletin to see the various ministry needs and opportunities that were not fully covered in our 2023 budget. We ask that you prayerfully consider and join us in this joy offering by giving to these causes that we believe make a great impact in our church and community or visit gatewaymerced.org/give

COLLEGE STUDENT HOUSING

We oftentimes have students in our ministry (INSPIRE) ask if there are any homes or rooms available to rent. If you are interested in renting to one of our students for a short or long term, feel free to contact Pastor Kevin at kborges@gatewaymerced.org to help get that started!

"RANDOM" ACTS OF PRAYER

Want to give a gift each day that costs nothing but a minute of your time and attentiveness to God's Spirit? Each day during this month, pray for a specific person, need, incident or situation God brings to your attention - not a prayer for ourselves/families/friends (which you hopefully are already doing) but for someone God impresses on your heart in the community, offering it to God as your Random Act of Prayer Gift for the day.

WORLD RENEW // GIFT CATALOG

In this season of giving, help people who live in extreme poverty experience more of the fullness of life God intends for them. Gift Catalogs are available at the information table.

RIGHTNOW MEDIA // FREE RESOURCE

We are proud to offer a free, customizable video library to equip families, resource groups, and develop leaders. Choose from more than 2,000 wholesome, educational, and entertaining videos for children, and over 20,000 biblical videos just for you. To sign up and get started fill out the communication card in this bulletin and mark RightNow Media or email info@gatewaymerced.org.

Contact Me About:

- Baptism
- Becoming a Follower of Jesus
- Church Membership
- Kid's Ministries
- RightNow Media
- Serving at Gateway
- Small Groups
- Worship Ministry
- Youth Ministries
- College/Young Adults

Comments, Prayer Requests:

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

The Wonder of Christmas - Gateway Groups, Merced
"Bond Together/Grow Together" // For the week of 12-18-22

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:**

Who is a person you trust to do what they say? How did you come to trust this person? How does trust relate to hope?

SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT: Romans 15 - Hope

DIGGING DEEPER:

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

1. One Hebrew word translated "Hope" means to wait, or wait for. Read aloud all of Psalm 31 with this in mind. Look at verses 1 through 5. What are the ways you see the psalmist waiting in hope for God? How have you done any of these?
2. In verses 7 and 8, there is hope fulfilled. What is his response to God coming through?
3. In verses 9-13, the psalmist describes his trials where he waited and hoped in God. Have you experienced any of these difficulties? How did you maintain hope?
4. In Verse 14, the psalmist says "You are my God." How does that declaration give him hope? Have you found hope in declaring the truth?
5. Look in verses 15 through 17 for expressions of hope, where the psalmist chooses to hope in God. Which can you relate to?
6. From verse 18, how have "lying lips" disheartened you? How did you fight it?
7. Verse 22 speaks to momentary failure to hope. What causes this? How have you fought through it?
8. Verse 24 gives a recap of what happens when you choose to hope in God. How do you choose hope? What are the results you have seen?

APPLY IT TODAY:

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

GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH
DECEMBER 18, 2022

The Wonder of
CHRISTMAS

Communication/Prayer Request Card

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.

December 18, 2022

Name: _____ Change in Contact Info

Email: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Best Contact Phone: _____

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

If you are a 1st or 2nd time guest, how did you hear about Gateway? _____

