

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

**For the week of 4-2-2023**

### 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:** If you found out how to know the future, what would you do with that power? Save people, bet on sporting events, etc?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Matthew 20:17-19 and Matthew 21:1-16 - "The Price"

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

Read aloud Psalm 22:1-18 regarding prophecies concerning Jesus.

1. What are vs. 1-2 stating? How does this connect with Jesus? Look at Matthew 27:46 to discuss what it means that Christ was forsaken on the cross?
2. Compare vs. 6-8 and Matthew 27:41-44. Is there anything that surprises you from this prophecy, like its accuracy? Have you ever been in a group that mocked Jesus or had emotions stirred when hearing anyone mock Jesus?
3. Read Vrs. 9-11. What do these verses state about the coming Savior? Look at Psalm 31:5 and Luke 23:46. Do the Psalm and Luke passages reveal how Jesus trusted in God? How have you found faith to trust God at this level?
4. How do you feel about the intentionality and preciseness of the prophecies concerning Jesus' last days and how does it impact how you trust God now?
5. When you see what Jesus went through for our salvation, and that we have been adopted into the family of God(Ephesians 1:3-6), what are the responses we can have in gratitude to Him?
6. Consider vs. 18 in the Psalm and read aloud John 19:23-24. Have you had others benefit from your own misfortune and act as if your pain meant nothing? How did you respond?

**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?