

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 6-18-2023

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: Ever have a desire for something, but you were afraid to ask your parents or boss if you could have it? If you asked, how did it turn out?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Matthew 6:5-15 - Our Father...

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

1. Read Aloud **Psalm 5**. The sermon focuses on praying to our Father, notice in vrs 1-2, David mentions 3 other names/titles by which to address God. Consider these (including Father) and see what each emphasizes when you use it in prayer.
2. In the same two verses, David asks God to listen three different ways. Identify each and consider what each means in a plea for help.
3. Vs 3 calls for morning prayers. Why morning? Other times of the day are obviously suitable for prayer.
4. Vs 3 also says that David will order his prayers. His word "order" comes from laying out wood you will build with, or at times, lay out battle plans. What does this tell you about these kinds of prayers?
5. Also in vs 3, he says he will watch after he prays. This word is the one used to keep watch as a spy. What does it tell you about his expectation?
6. In vrs 4-7, there is a comparison between the evil ones and David. How can David make this claim about himself?
7. Look at the promise in vs 7. How have you found this promise to be true so far in your Christian life? Also, what does it say about your future?

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?