

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 4-23-2023

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 special family traditions do you always do each year? How did they begin and are they important to you? Why or why not?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Communion

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

1. Read aloud John 6:53-66. Notice how offended and put off the people are. What is Jesus talking about? Why does He say it this way? How do you feel about these words?
2. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. When did you first take or understand communion? What do you think it means to "proclaim the Lord's death"?
3. Does taking communion change you? How does it do this?
4. Go back to 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 and discuss the "guidelines" for taking communion. Do you agree with these? How have you experienced this?
5. Read aloud Romans 6:3-7. Have you been baptized? If you have, how would you say it united you to His death? Did you see any changes going forward from your baptism? Talk about them.
6. Have you accepted your forgiveness in Christ? Does it excite you to think that God is calling you to His table to eat with Him? What is that "dining" like for you?
7. In what ways will taking communion be the same for you moving forward? Different? What stands in the way of you embracing and experiencing the concepts in these questions?

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?