

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

**For the week of 4-30-2023**

### 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 the worst thing you ever did as a child that you are comfortable sharing today? What was your immediate feeling after?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Baptism Sunday!

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

1. What ideas of baptism have you had? In other words, what were some of your ideas, or other peoples, of what baptism was for or about?
2. Read Mark 1:4. What was John's baptism for? The baptism Jesus instituted symbolizes death and resurrection in Acts 2:38-41 and Rom. 6:1-5. How do we understand the difference between John's baptism and Jesus' baptism?
3. In what way does baptism have importance for believers? In other words, can you think of some reasons God would institute this sacrament for you?
4. Read Matthew 3:11 together and answer how you would interpret John's words about baptism? What is it that makes sense? Confuses you?
5. Baptism has often been described two ways. There's your spiritual baptism, when you believe and the Holy Spirit comes. And there's a physical baptism, in water. How does Romans 6:5-11 bring the "new life" idea of your spiritual baptism into focus? What is described in those verses?
6. If we have been "set free from sin"(vs. 6) why do we still commit sin? What does Romans 6:5-11 speak about your freedom(vs. 7)? How does it make you feel that you are "set free from sin", forever?
7. What is the greatest truth about baptism, from today's study, that you must continue to remember? What verse provides for this truth?

**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?