

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

**For the week of 5-21-2023**

### 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:** Who was your best friend growing up? What qualities of the friendship did you both experience to create that bond?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Deuteronomy 5:6-33, 6:1-9, Matthew 19:19  
Matthew 28:20 - "The Pre-eminent Command"

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

**Read aloud 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 to discover more on love. Use diff. translations**

1. List the definitions of love from these 5 verses. Why would we relate this passage to the last 5 of the 10 Commandments from Sunday's message?
2. Vs. 4 starts with love being patient and kind. How have you experienced these working together and what do they together produce in us?
3. Vrs. 4-5 also say what love is not: jealous, boastful, proud or rude. How are these related? What are ways we exhibit these and how is it helpful to allow others into our lives to keep us accountable in our actions?
4. Put vs. 5 into your own words. Take your time and allow the text to come alive. What is it that you need to reflect upon from this verse, personally?
5. What are ways you can "rejoice in the truth"(vs. 6) within or outside the church? Use different translations of this verse. Is it possible to do this?
6. Vs. 7 says love bears, believes, hopes, endures all things. Why can this be hard to do today?
7. Vs. 8 "Love never fails." Look at the other three gifts that will fail or be done away with. What is this verse telling you about the importance of love? How important is how we carry out love for each other since it will never fail?

**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?