

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 5-7-2023

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 most inspiring coach or teacher? Did they change the way you thought or how you performed? How did they do that?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Colossians 3:5-14 and Ephesians 2:8-10. New Life

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

Read Romans 8:1-11, Colossians 3:5-14

1. In vs. 1, how does being "in Christ Jesus" impact how you view your relationship with God and access to heaven? What encourages you?
2. What are the two ways to live, which are opposites, found in vs. 4-8? Describe the difference between each?
3. What type of comfort should the Christian get from vs. 9-11? Since we are in the "*realm of the Spirit(NIV)*" what would you say will be the practical result of living this way?
4. Speaking of the practical result of living in the "realm of the Spirit," read through Ephesians 4:22-32. What are the ways believers should live, as listed?
5. Which ones of these things have proven to be easiest for you? Hardest?
6. How would a person "grieve the Holy Spirit"(vs. 30)? Have you ever considered the amount of times you have grieved the Holy Spirit? How does someone resolve that?
7. How does the believer continue to do the right thing for the right reason? In other words, how do you do works out of relationship and a response of love to God, instead of out of duty?

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?