

# WELCOME

September 11, 2022

We're so glad you're here!

At Gateway, we believe in joining God to transform our lives and culture to reflect His heart by:

Loving God ● Loving Each Other ● Loving His World

## WEEKLY SERVICE & MEETINGS

COMPLETE LISTING AT GATEWAYMERCED.ORG

### SUNDAY

- Sunday Service // In Person & Live on YouTube (10AM)  
\*Past messages are available // [www.gatewaymerced.org](http://www.gatewaymerced.org)

\*\*Family Room and Nursing Room Available by the Restrooms.\*\*

- Join us for corporate prayer // 9AM // Conference Room & Zoom  
[www.gatewaymerced.org/events](http://www.gatewaymerced.org/events)
- 1st - 5th Grade // 10AM // Rooms D1 - D4
- 6 Weeks to Kinder // 10AM // Preschool Wing
- Catalyst High School // 7PM // Gym

### TUESDAY

- Crossroads Middle School // 7PM // Gym

### THURSDAY

- INSPIRE College & Young Adult // 8PM // Gym

### GET CONNECTED:

[gatewaymerced.org/getconnected-2](http://gatewaymerced.org/getconnected-2)

### GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

353 E DONNA DR // MERCED, CA 95340

PHONE: (209)723-4283 WEB: GATEWAYMERCED.ORG

FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM: @GATEWAYMERCED

## GATEWAY NEWS |

### BAGS ARE BACK, BABY!

Several people have been asking when the Deacons are going to start passing the bags again for offering? They miss that "worship experience of giving during the service rather than dropping their offering in the baskets in back. We hear your plea. The Deacons discussed it and felt it was time to start passing the bags on Sunday again. Starting today we will once again incorporate a time to worship God with your giving during the service. If You give online, you can continue to do so.

### SIGN UP FOR A SMALL GROUP TODAY

Looking for a way to be in Bible study and in relationship with others? Our Small Groups vision is that we Bond Together relationally and Grow Together Spiritually - Bond Together/Grow Together. Check out the sign up table or go online to the Gateway "Get Connected" page to sign up for a small group! The variety of groups will range from Marriage, Men, Women, Finances, Sermon Based Groups, Bible Book focused groups and more! Find your group today at [gatewaymerced.org/smallgroups](http://gatewaymerced.org/smallgroups)

### FIT (FIRST IMPRESSIONS TEAM) LUNCHEON TRAINING // TODAY

We will be having a Luncheon/Training after the service at 11:30AM. We will be meeting in A/4-5 to review each of the areas of our ministry and how we are best working to make Sunday's service be incredible from the Greeters to the Ushers and Refreshments and Guest Center....not to mention our Safety Team! If you have been trying to find your ministry, email Pastor Kevin at [kborges@gatewaymerced.org](mailto:kborges@gatewaymerced.org) and share how you would like more information on being a part of the FIT Team!

### TRANSFIGURED - PATRICIA SANDOVAL// TODAY // ST. PATRICK'S

You're invited to join fellow Central Valley pro-life supporters TODAY at 3PM at St. Patrick's Church, to hear Patricia Sandoval's miraculous story - and be transfigured. Patricia lived on the streets as a homeless drug addict following three abortions and employment at Planned Parenthood. Transfigured by the mercy of God, Patricia now inspires countless souls around the world with her life-changing testimony of hope, forgiveness, and redemption. Visit [possibilityproductions.org](http://possibilityproductions.org) for details.

### RIGHTNOW MEDIA // FREE RESOURCE

We are proud to offer a free, customizable video library to equip families, resource groups, and develop leaders. Choose from more than 2,000 wholesome, educational, and entertaining videos for children, and over 20,000 biblical videos just for you. To sign up and get started fill out the communication card in this bulletin and mark RightNow Media or email [info@gatewaymerced.org](mailto:info@gatewaymerced.org).

### Contact Me About:

- Baptism
- Becoming a Follower of Jesus
- Church Membership
- Kid's Ministries
- RightNow Media
- Serving at Gateway
- Small Groups
- Worship Ministry
- Youth Ministries
- College/Young Adults

### Comments, Prayer Requests:

- Confidential (Staff Only) Best way to Contact me:  Text  Call  Email

**Investigating Jesus - Gateway Groups, Merced**  
*"Bond Together/Grow Together" // For the week of 9-11-22*

**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:**

Think of a time where you had two conflicting choices. How did you decide between them, or did you refuse to choose?

**SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT:** Luke 13:1-35 Two Gates

**DIGGING DEEPER:** *(Teachers/leaders, feel the freedom to not ask every question)*

1. Read aloud Luke 13:1-9. Jesus teaches not to judge people based on what happens to them. His focus is repentance. How does the fig tree speak to repentance?
2. Read aloud Luke 13:10-17. Look specifically at verse 11. Jesus says her affliction was caused by a demon. Does that have any relevance to us in our time? Have you had experience with anything pertaining to this?
3. Read aloud Luke 13:18-21. Are these two comparisons to the Kingdom about the negative or positive? How did you come to this conclusion?
4. Read aloud Luke 13:23-30. Vs 30 has a renewed idea of the importance of position and entrance into heaven. Discuss what you think about being first or last and also, what is Jesus' point for us to apply this passage?
5. Read aloud Luke 13:31-33 and Hosea 6:1-2. What is the point Jesus is making in the Luke passage and how can it connect with Hosea?
6. Read aloud Luke 13:34-35. Jesus was speaking about the unrepentant people in Jerusalem here. What words would you use to describe His heart for them? How can you respond to Jesus' words, in our world today?

**APPLY IT TODAY:**

Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember? Why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?

**Communication/Prayer Request Card**

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Change in Contact Info

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- I'm new to Gateway:  1<sup>st</sup> Visit  I've been here a few times
- I attend here often  I'm a member

If you are a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> time guest, how did you hear about Gateway? \_\_\_\_\_

**September 11, 2022**

