

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

For the week of 10-23-2022

### 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 is the biggest favor you have ever asked of anyone, or the favor that was the most difficult to ask for? How did you feel? How did it go?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Luke 18:1-14

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

1. Read aloud James 4:8-10. What words are described here for the one who is aware of their failure and their need for God. What gets in the way of that? How would this work in an earthly relationship?
2. Read aloud Proverbs 6:1-5. How would you describe what the person has done in a general way? How are they instructed to get out of it? Relate this to something in your life, either when someone came to you, or you went to them.
3. Read aloud Psalm 51:6-10. How does the writer see himself and his needs? What are they expecting God to do? Can you explain how you have ever experienced what David is expressing? With what result?
4. Read aloud Zephaniah 2:1-3. While this is an extreme prophecy related to the end, how can you relate these ideas to yourself? How can you escape the horrible things that are coming on a smaller scale to you? What attitudes does it instruct you to adopt?
5. Read aloud Luke 18:1. Jesus said to pray "at all times" or "always." How can this be accomplished? How have you worked this out in your life?
6. In the same verse, He tells us not to lose heart. It is talking about being physically worn out or losing courage. Can you talk about the connection between failure to pray and being exhausted and afraid?

**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?