

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of **11-6-2022**

### 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:** Not considering people (family or friends), what is your most prized possession? Why?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Luke 19:1-10

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

1. Read aloud James 2:14-26. Discuss what works mean in the Bible. Note the Greek word used is "ergon" from which we get ergonomics. What would be the difference between simple work that expends energy and a "good" work?
2. Focus on verses 14-16, Look at the works that are listed. How do you respond to the idea of being involved in these types of good works?
3. Look again at verses 17 and 18. What is the concept here that is being identified as dead? How can faith be dead? What is your experience with this?
4. Focus on verses 20 through 23, As a group, discuss the two concepts of being "justified by works" and "faith being counted as righteousness." How are they different and how do they work together? NOTE: Biblically, justified means "to MAKE you as you ought to be" and righteousness is "BEING as you ought to be."
5. Verse 24 explains that it takes works and faith to get you where you should be in a practical, day to day way. How have you experienced both of these working out together in your life?
6. Verse 26 lays out a difficult idea to grasp intellectually. It makes a comparison between "body without Spirit" and "faith without works." As a group, discuss what insight into this the Holy Spirit might give you.

**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?