

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 11-20-2022

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 are some of the most challenging questions you and your friends have had about the end times?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Luke 21:1-38

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

1. Read vs. 5-38. Do "end times" conversations matter? While there are many interpretations of this, what have your thoughts on the end times been and how did you come to those conclusions?
2. Vrs 7-8 says many will pretend to be Jesus in those days. Can you think of how this has happened in our day or in past history?
3. What decline do people have to take to follow false teachers claiming to be Jesus? Another way to think of it, "How do people get to a place of following someone claiming to be Jesus, a prophet or even a false teacher?"
4. Vrs. 12-19 speaks of the persecution of believers. While today may not be the exact setting spoken of here, can you think of where it is happening in the most extreme cases? What is Jesus' directive for you in the midst of persecution?(vs. 19) How can you prepare yourself for this?
5. Vrs. 29-36 is a parable Jesus directs to His disciples. If you are a disciple of Jesus, how should you respond? What are the words Jesus uses in 34-36 to His followers and how can you carefully follow His instructions in order to be certain of your future in the end times?
6. While not every question can be answered from this study, what questions do you have that can be studied and researched more? How can you do that research yourself?

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?