

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 12-04-2022

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 kinds of situations, people or thoughts make you nervous or make you worry? How do you handle that emotional stress?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Philippians 4:4-13

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

Read Ephesians 2:11-22 together. Think of a theme you would title this section of Ephesians and discuss your ideas after reading.

1. Who are the people without hope and without God(vs. 12) that Paul is referring to here?
2. By what means did their standing change(vs. 13)? How would you consider your standing in relation to Jesus today, in light of this? When did your life change from "without hope and without God" to WITH hope and WITH God?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus has provided these things along with peace as a result? How and where has that impacted your life?
4. What was Jesus' purpose, according to vs. 15? How could you remember this purpose in the coming days, with Christmas a few weeks away?
5. Read vs. 18 and discuss what benefits having access to God the Father in your life provides.
6. Has peace been an immediate reward for you, something eluding you, or something you continue to pursue? How does it make you feel that peace is a promise for the believer?
7. Where can you share this peace with someone else, this week?

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?