Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 3-19-2023

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: Where in your life do you most doubt your abilities or your chance of success? How do you get through it?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Read aloud Matthew 6:25-34 - "What is True Faith?"

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

1. What three worries did Jesus discourage among His followers? Why? When was the last time you "worried" about any of these?
2. Have you ever wondered how birds live through the darkest seasons like winter in Wisconsin or Canada? How would Jesus answer this?
3. Jesus says in vs. 28, "Why are you anxious about clothing?" This may sound silly, but why would we be stressed over not having the right clothes or shoes or makeup or whatever?
4. How do you think worry affects people emotionally, physically, and spiritually? Are there any studies about worry you can google to see this?
5. While Jesus is speaking of food, drink and clothing what would you say His real point, His deeper truth is, in teaching on worry and anxiety?
6. What does Hebrews 11:1 define faith as? What relationship does worry or anxiety have with faith? Where have you found this to be true in your life?
7. Describe any experiences you have had where you knew you had faith and you walked in it. What were you realizing about God's promises?
8. How much do you have to grow in your faith, and realizing true faith daily?

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?