

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 5-8-2022

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:** Have you ever belonged to a club (Costco, Country Club, Rotary, etc), or been denied membership to one? What benefits did it afford? What was the protocol to bring others into it if they weren't members?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Luke 3:21-38

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

1. How would you feel if you knew there was only a small group of people who could go to heaven and you weren't one of them? What emotions would you be feeling?
2. Read Isaiah 9:1-2 and 49:6b and discuss what these passages are saying concerning those who are part of the "nations" and also known as Gentiles. These are prophetic passages concerning the Messiah as light. Describe the benefits you've experienced while being able to understand and know this "light"?
3. Review Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:7-8. How does it feel to be the ones tasked with being "witnesses" of Jesus to others? Is this overwhelming, exciting, hard, easy, or courageous and how does this responsibility as a Christian impact you?
4. Think about a church that isolates itself, or one that becomes content knowing its members are saved, and feels no push to go beyond its own walls. If you were in that church, what ideas would you have to help lead others to respond to the gospel message?

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?