

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

**For the week of 8-21-2022**

### 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:** Share a favorite childhood memory about a house you lived in or visited, growing up? Why was it special?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Luke 11:14-28 Investigating Jesus

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

*Today's study is from Ephesians 3:14-19*

1. Sunday's message compared our hearts to a house. How do you feel about your heart as a dwelling place or home for someone?
2. From Sunday's message in Luke 11:24, Jesus tells about an exorcized demon, wandering and looking for a house to rest in, meaning someone to demonize. What questions come to mind with the idea that a demon was looking for a "house" to rest in? Discuss this before looking at Ephesians.
3. Now read Ephesians 3:14-19. What are the things Paul prays for in these passages? List them together and discuss how it is a significant prayer.
4. Verse 16 has an amazing statement, "strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being." How would you describe this verse?
5. Vs. 17 brings up the phrase about Christ dwelling in our **hearts** through faith. Describe how your heart is considered as the house Christ lives in, Jesus home? Does this make you reassured, sober, scared, happy, etc?
6. How is being "rooted and established in love" a key component to the promises revealed here in vs. 18-19? What hurdles do you have to accomplish this? What pathways are available for you to accomplish this?
7. How can someone work these promises out with other believers?

**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?