

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 8-22-2021

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:** How are you at making choices in life? Friends? Jobs? Investments? Churches? Homes?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Philippians 1 - Choosing Joy - God's Got You

Digging Deeper: .

1. Read Philippians 1:1-5. Verse 4 talks about joy in prayer. What can you find in the verses in this section that might explain why Paul prays with joy?
2. Describe how joy has impacted your daily life? What are the things that bring you the contentment and peace that accompanies joy?
3. Now, read Philippians 1:12-20. How can Paul express joy in the midst of his very difficult circumstances(vs 18)? What does this say about our circumstances and the way in which we are to work through them?
4. What are the most difficult circumstances in life which seem to steal your joy? Have you worked through any of these circumstances to find peace yet or are you still processing them? It's ok to be in the midst of the process.
5. Read Philippians 1:21-26. Discuss the dilemma Paul describes here. How can he have this type of faith?
6. Paul is a "Super-Christian" in these verses, isn't he? But how would you say it is possible for us to have this type of attitude and approach to our faith in today's world? What will make it hard? How will it be accomplished?

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?