

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

**For the week of 6-12-2022**

### 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:** In life, how do you figure out whom to trust? Talk about when you've misplaced trust or, conversely, when it worked out as you hoped.

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Read aloud Luke 6:37-49 - The Proof of a Follower/Disciple

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

1. Look again at verses 39-42. Have you known "teachers" who taught human wisdom as if it was God's wisdom? Have you experienced a "blind guide" or perhaps been one yourself? What pit did you fall into? How do we safeguard ourselves from these types?
2. Verses 43-45 talk about the good fruit coming from a good storehouse in our lives. Romans 3:12 quotes the Old Testament scriptures in teaching us that there are none good. So then how can we produce good fruit?
3. Look again at verses 46-49. Have you ever found yourself to be talking the talk (calling Jesus "Lord") but not walking the walk? How was that brought to your attention? What did you do?
4. This section teaches that obedience creates a safe, secure foundation for our lives. Notice that either way, the storms still come. Discuss what you have experienced on both sides: coping with troubles while doing life your own way, compared to striving to follow God in the face of opposition.
5. Read aloud 1 John 4:7-11. Love should distinguish us from the world. What have you experienced in learning how Jesus' love for you can be shared with those around you? Contrary to some thinking, love is both an emotion and a verb. How does positive emotion encourage & prompt you to action?

**Apply it today:** Looking back over this week's teaching, what seems most important for you to remember? Why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?