

# WELCOME

November 14, 2021

We're so glad you're here!

At Gateway, we believe in joining God to transform our lives and culture to reflect His heart by:

Loving God ● Loving Each Other ● Loving His World

## WEEKLY SERVICE & MEETINGS

COMPLETE LISTING AT [GATEWAYMERCED.ORG](http://GATEWAYMERCED.ORG)

### SUNDAY

- Sunday Service // In Person (9AM & 11AM) & Live on YouTube (9AM)

\*Past messages are available // [www.gatewaymerced.org](http://www.gatewaymerced.org)

\*\*Family Room and Nursing Room Available by the Restrooms.\*\*

- Join us for corporate prayer // 8AM // Conference Room & Zoom  
[www.gatewaymerced.org/events](http://www.gatewaymerced.org/events)
- 1st - 5th Grade // 9AM & 11AM // Rooms D1 - D4
- 6 Weeks to Kinder // 9AM & 11AM // Preschool Wing
- Catalyst High School // 7PM // Gym

### TUESDAY

- Crossroads Middle School // 7PM // Gym

### THURSDAY

- INSPIRE College & Young Adult // 8PM // Gym

### JOIN A SMALL GROUP:

<https://gatewaymerced.org/smallgroups>

### GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

353 E DONNA DR // MERCED, CA 95340

PHONE: (209)723-4283 WEB: [GATEWAYMERCED.ORG](http://GATEWAYMERCED.ORG)

FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM: @GATEWAYMERCED

## GATEWAY NEWS |

### WELCOME BRENNAN!

Join us in welcoming Brennan Strawn, whom we are commissioning today as our new Worship Pastor. Brennan has a heart for the Lord and an extensive worship background. We are looking forward to seeing how God will use Brennan to lead us into His presence through worship.

### SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

If you are facing extreme grief this holiday season, you know there's no easy or quick fix! But we can help you uncover practical holiday survival tips for dealing with a season of despair. Join us for Surviving the Holidays, a 2-hour event featuring real-life stories and a community of caring people on Sun., Nov. 21st at 2PM at Gateway (Worship Center). If you cannot attend, we will do the same event on Sun., Dec. 19th at 2PM. Please register online or in person. For assistance or more information contact Kenny Dunham at the Church Office (209) 723-4283 or email [kdunham@gatewaymerced.org](mailto:kdunham@gatewaymerced.org)

### 2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL AVAILABLE!

Our Council has tentatively approved our budget for 2022, subject to the approval by the congregation on 11/21. Copies of our budget proposal are available at the information table. Please look it over and let us know if you have any questions. We value your partnership in Gateway's mission and hope all members will attend the congregational meeting held between services (10:15-10:45AM) on 11/21, where we will answer questions and formally vote on the budget.

### NACHORDINARY THANKSGIVING // SUN., NOV. 21 // 6:30-8:30PM

All students (Middle School & High School) are invited to join us for a Thanksgiving themed night starting with a build-your-own nachos meal and then a worship night, led by our church's worship team. A short devotional and practical thanksgiving response will also be part of the worship time. If students are excited about thanking God for His many blessings, we'd love for them to be a part of this!

### RIGHTNOW MEDIA // FREE RESOURCE

We are proud to offer a free, customizable video library to equip families, resource groups, and develop leaders. Choose from more than 2,000 wholesome, educational, and entertaining videos for children, and over 20,000 biblical videos just for you. To sign up and get started fill out the communication card in this bulletin and mark RightNow Media or email [info@gatewaymerced.org](mailto:info@gatewaymerced.org).

### Contact Me About:

- Baptism
- Becoming a Follower of Jesus
- Church Membership
- Kid's Ministries
- RightNow Media
- Serving at Gateway
- Small Groups
- Worship Ministry
- Youth Ministries
- College/Young Adults

### Comments, Prayer Requests:

- Confidential (Staff Only) Best way to Contact me:  Text  Call  Email

How have you seen God move in your life this week/recently?

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced  
"Bond Together/Grow Together" // For the week of 11-14-2021

**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:**

Have you ever considered the extra stuff you have in your home to be needless? How could you release it and walk away to avoid being entangled by it anymore? How would you feel if you did that?

**SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT:**

Hebrews 12:1-3, Proverbs 30:7-9, 1Timothy 6:17-19 - "Uncluttered - Stuff"

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

1. Read aloud Hebrews 12:1. The words "entangles", "besets", or "clings so closely" describe those things in our lives hindering us from living out our faith well. What "things" keep people from running well in their faith?
2. Verse 1 speaks of laying "weights (encumbrances)" aside so we can run the race. Why is it so difficult for us to get rid of things even after we realize how they hinder our walk with God?
3. Read aloud Proverbs 30:7-9. Focus on v 9. What does it mean in this context when a person says, "Who is the Lord?" In this case, is it the result of having too much? Have you ever been satisfied with "things" and had a lesser interest in God? How does that type of distraction make you feel?
4. From Proverbs 30:7-9, what are the things that are most important? How difficult is it to keep your focus on the most important things? Easy or Hard?
5. Read aloud 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How does the truth of "storing up a treasure" motivate you? In a practical sense, what would this mean for your life?

**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?

**Communication/Prayer Request Card**

November 14, 2021

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Change in Contact Info

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm new to Gateway:  1<sup>st</sup> Visit  I attend here often  I'm a member

I've been here a few times

If you are a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> time guest, how did you hear about Gateway? \_\_\_\_\_

GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH  
SUNDAYS 9AM & 11AM

Uncluttered

NOVEMBER 14, 2021