

# WELCOME

November 26, 2023

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

## GET CONNECTED

GATEWAYMERCED.ORG

### SUNDAY SERVICE - 10AM

Join us in person at: 353 E Donna Dr. Merced, CA. 95340

- Corporate Prayer | 9AM | Conference Rm
- Family Room & Nursing Room available by the restrooms
- 6 wks - Kinder | Preschool Wing
- 1st-5th grade | Rms D1-D4



Scan for YouTube

Or LIVE on our YouTube Channel

### NEW TO CHURCH?

Go to our Guest Center for next steps or scan QR code to fill out our connection card



Scan for Next Steps

### DOWNLOAD OUR CHURCHCENTER APP



- Watch past sermons or kids at home videos
- Set up payments for tithes or offerings
- Check out the available small groups
- Fill out connection card

### GATEWAY WIFI



Scan to Connect : GCC-CHURCH



Scan for WiFi

### SOCIAL MEDIA



@gatewaymerced

353 E DONNA DR MERCED, CA | (209)723-4283

# EVENTS

## COMMUNION | TODAY

The communion table has been prepared for all who love Jesus and trust Him alone for the forgiveness of their sins. Everyone who is truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believes in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desires to live in obedience to Him, is invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG | DEC 17 | AFTER SERVICE

Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting is planned for Sun, Dec 17, immediately following the service. We will have some time for questions, and then vote to approve the 2024 Proposed Budget (copies available at the Guest Center). We value your partnership in Gateway's mission and hope you will all attend the congregational meeting and that all official members over the age of 18 will vote. Thank you!

## YOU'RE INVITED! | DEC 10TH | AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE

We continue to eagerly await and witness God's goodness through the construction of the Generations building. Please join us as we gather on Dec 10th, inside the new building, to pray, celebrate with Christmas cookies, and continue to cast vision on the great impact that this will bring into our church, community and beyond. Please scan Qr code, for more info on the Generations effort.



## SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS | DEC 17 | 2-4PM | ROOM A4&5

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? Join us for a 2-hour event called Surviving the Holidays where we talk about how to deal with grief around the holiday season.



## MERCED RESCUE MISSION | FOOD DRIVE

This annual food drive provides food throughout the year for the Rescue Mission. If you would like to participate in helping collect food for low-income families and those who are unhoused. The donations help provide Christmas meals for over 1,000 people. Donations can be placed in the blue bin located in the gym.

## RIGHTNOW MEDIA | FREE RESOURCE

We are proud to offer a free, customizable video library to equip families, resource groups, and leaders. To sign up and get started fill out the communication card in this bulletin or mark RightNow Media or email info@gatewaymerced.org.

### Contact Me About:

- Baptism
- Becoming a Follower of Jesus
- Church Membership
- Elementary/Preteen
- Worship Ministry
- Youth Ministries
- Infant/Kindergarten
- RightNow Media
- Serving at Gateway
- College/ Young Adults
- Discover Serving
- Small Groups

Area of Interest:

### Comments, Prayer Requests:

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

Christmas Through the Eyes of... - Gateway Groups, Merced  
"Bond Together/Grow Together" // For the week of 11-26-23

**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:**

What was the most important thing you have ever lost and how did you lose it, or find it?(wedding ring, child, keys, phone?)

**SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT:**

"Christmas through the eyes of Mary and Joseph"

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

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

1. Parenting brings many responsibilities and ways to worry. What would you say are the most difficult things parents worry about with children?  
Read Luke 2:41-52 together
2. Who do you identify with most in this passage, Mary or Joseph?
3. If you not only had the responsibility of raising a son...but the knowledge He would be the Savior of the world, what would the 3 days looking for Him have been like?(vs. 46) What emotions would Mary and Joseph have felt?
4. Vs. 48 says his parents were "astonished", as was everyone else, hearing His teaching(vs. 47). How would you feel knowing the Gospel (Good News) was taking shape in Jesus' words at that time? How would you process it?
5. How should we respond to Jesus' teaching in His "Father's house", the church, today? When did you first recognize Jesus' teaching clearly?
6. Vs. 51 says that Mary "treasured all these things in her heart." How can you and I "treasure" everything we know about Jesus today? Where can you apply the story of Christmas to your life this next week?
7. Tell your story to someone about what Christmas, Jesus' arrival, means to you.

**APPLY IT TODAY:**

What was most important for you to remember today and why?

**Communication/Prayer Request Card**

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms

November 26, 2023

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

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

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

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

- I'm new to Gateway:  1<sup>st</sup> Visit  I've been here a few times  I attend here often  I'm a member

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

