

# WELCOME

November 27, 2022

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

### SUNDAY

- Sunday Service // In Person & Live on YouTube (10AM)  
\*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 // 9AM // Conference Room & Zoom  
[www.gatewaymerced.org/events](http://www.gatewaymerced.org/events)
- 1st - 5th Grade // 10AM // Rooms D1 - D4
- 6 Weeks to Kinder // 10AM // Preschool Wing
- Catalyst High School // 7PM // Gym

### TUESDAY

- Crossroads Middle School // 7PM // Gym

### THURSDAY

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

### GET CONNECTED:

[gatewaymerced.org/getconnected-2](http://gatewaymerced.org/getconnected-2)

### GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

353 E DONNA DR // MERCED, CA 95340

PHONE: (209)723-4283 WEB: GATEWAYMERCED.ORG

FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM: @GATEWAYMERCED

## GATEWAY NEWS |

### WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Today we have the privilege of welcoming into membership some who have gone through our Membership Class and are officially joining us as members, promising to respond to God's love by joining us in loving God, loving each other, and loving His world!

### 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.

### MEET AND GREET // SUN. DEC 11 // JOIN US AFTER SERVICE

Are you new to Gateway and/or would like to get plugged into our church? Come and meet some of our Gateway staff and members at our 'Meet N Greet' Sun., Dec. 11 after the service in C6. We'd LOVE to get to know you, welcome you, and answer any questions you may have. Don't miss out!

### SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS // SUN. DEC. 18 // 2-4PM // ROOM A4&5

Bittersweet memories. Loss of traditions. An empty seat at the table. The holiday season can trigger sadness and despair for people grieving a loss. Join us for a 2-hour event called Surviving the Holidays where we talk about how to deal with grief around the holiday season. For reservations or more info, contact Rob Mansfield at (209) 383-9383 or by emailing Rob at [jacobswell.merced@gmail.com](mailto:jacobswell.merced@gmail.com).

### LIFELINE CDC // CHRISTMAS WITH DIGNITY

Give a new gift to LifeLine and we set up a 'store' where parents have the dignity to purchase a gift for 20% of the value (a \$20 gift will cost them \$4). The proceeds go to our kid's programs. For more questions call LifeLine CDC at 209-259-8950

### 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

The Wonder of Christmas - Gateway Groups, Merced  
*"Bond Together/Grow Together" // For the week of 11-27-22*

**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:**

Can you remember anyone in your life who seemed to like you no matter what? Talk about them a little, how they showed this approval.

**SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT:** John 3:16

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

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

1. Read aloud 1 John 4:8-16. Notice the phrase that occurs twice: God is love. What does this mean to you? How have you seen Him in loving action?
2. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 13:4-13. Look at the attributes in this passage and consider that since God is love, these describe Him. How is He patient and kind to you?
3. Consider that He does not brag, nor is He arrogant. What would it be like if He did?
4. The New American Standard verse 5 says love is not unbecoming. If you have other translations, what do they say? What is this? Why would God not act this way?
5. From verse 5 we could also say that God is not self centered, not irritated or exasperated. Why might it seem to us that He can be this way? What gets our thinking off track?
6. God rejoices in truth and righteousness. Why do those delight Him?
7. Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things. How does this speak of Who God is and how He treats us?
8. Verse 8 says that gifts come to an end, but God's love never does. Can you talk about why gifts end, but God's love does not?

**APPLY IT TODAY:**

Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember ? Why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?

GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH  
**NOVEMBER 27, 2022**

*The Wonder of*  
**CHRISTMAS**



**Communication/Prayer Request Card**

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.

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? \_\_\_\_\_

**November 27, 2022**