

# WELCOME

November 28, 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

### 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

FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM: @GATEWAYMERCED

## GATEWAY NEWS

### 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.

### YOUTH CHRISTMAS EVENTS

-For high school students, Snowbell will be a fancy night getting served Taco Bell by your leaders and lots of other Christmas fun... *Sunday Dec. 5* (\$5 Donation appreciated but not required).

-For middle school students, Chaotic Christmas is a crazy fun time with snacks, an ugly sweater contest and more... *Tuesday Dec. 7.*

\*Both events start at 7PM (normal youth group times) and all students are welcome! More info is available at [gatewaymerced.org/youth](http://gatewaymerced.org/youth) or email Pastor Isaac [iparra@gatewaymerced.org](mailto:iparra@gatewaymerced.org)

### MEET AND GREET // DECEMBER 12

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' on Sun. Dec 12 after both services in A4&5. We'd LOVE to get to know you, welcome you, and answer any questions you may have. Don't miss out!

### "RANDOM" ACTS OF PRAYER

We are participating again this year with others in Merced who are willing to make a special daily effort to pray for those around them. Are you willing to simply pray at least once a day during the days of December for whomever God puts in your path and impresses you to lift to Him in prayer? If so, please let us know via the communication card that you'll be joining the effort...and thank you!

### 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 11-28-2021

**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:**

What type of gift have you ever received that you weren't expecting and was extraordinary? What feelings did you experience?

**SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT:**

Luke 1:1-25, 57-80 "Zechariah's Song"

**DIGGING DEEPER:** John 3

1. Read John 3:1-3 aloud. Notice the difference between what Nicodemus says and the answer that Jesus gives? Can you articulate the question that was behind Nicodemus' statement? Have you ever asked God this question?
2. Read vs. 3-8 aloud. How many times is the concept of the second birth mentioned in those 6 verses? Point them all out to each other.
3. Verse 8 tells us that people who are born of the Spirit are like the wind. What is the evidence of new life in someone? Have you been born again? If you are sure, when was it? If you are unsure, talk about that to the group.
4. Read aloud vs. 9-10. What ideas do you have as to why Jesus asked Nicodemus why he didn't "understand these things?"
5. Read John 3:16 to yourself. What in your Christian life have you drawn from this verse?
6. What is the reality and importance of the light that Jesus is speaking of in vs. 19-21? How does it impact you that you are either in the light or you are not? Is there any in between?

**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 28, 2021

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 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? \_\_\_\_\_

