

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 11/26/2023

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?