

WELCOME

December 10, 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

YOU'RE INVITED! | TODAY | 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, 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.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES THIS WEEK

Tonight for High School we have our annual Snowbell event 7-8:45PM. We'll celebrate Christmas with a Taco Bell dinner served by our adult leaders, a photo booth (dress to impress), games and more! \$5 donation appreciated but not necessary for attendance. Tuesday for Middle School (6-8th grade) is our Chaotic Christmas Party 7-8:30pm with Christmas games, snacks, photo booth and a best dressed Christmas spirit contest. We hope to see lots of our students and many new ones this week!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | DEC 24 AT 10AM

Gateway Church invites you to our Christmas Eve celebration and candlelight service on Dec 24 at 10AM. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus, worship our Redeemer and prepare our hearts for the return of Emmanuel - God with us.

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!

BAPTISM CLASS | DEC 17 | RM A4/5 | AFTER SERVICE

Sign up for our next baptism class! Once Jesus becomes the center of your life, you'll want to outwardly declare how God's been changing your life. Come and find out more about what it means to be baptized on Dec 17 after service in Rm. A4/5. Baptisms will take place on December 31 during service.



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
- Infant/Kindergarten
- RightNow Media
- Serving at Gateway
- Elementary/Preteen
- Worship Ministry
- Youth Ministries
- 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 12-10-23

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 are the funniest things your children, or others children you've watched, have done? Why was it so funny?

SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT: Matthew 2:13-18 "Christmas through the eyes of the Children of Bethlehem"

DIGGING DEEPER:

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

Go back and read the Christmas story from Matthew 2:1-18.

1. The Wise Men were more accurately Magi - Eastern Astrologers, which was a sophisticated scientific study of the celestials (Stars and planets). State some ramifications to their coming to worship the newborn king?
2. Is there anything that you could find ironic about who answered King Herod's question in vs 4-6? How knowledgeable were the religious leaders?
3. Who are the people you know who have "heard" about Jesus and yet refuse to believe? Why do people refuse, in light of the evidence?
4. Herod's response in vs 16-18 is horrific. Why would a loving God predict this act, and allow it to happen? For how long would these people remember this event throughout Bethlehem, let alone Judea?
5. How can you respond to the Christmas story as it relates to children? What areas in church help us highlight the importance of children knowing Jesus?
6. How has children's ministry impacted you personally, from the past as well as the present? How can you encourage those working with children in the next 3 weeks?

APPLY IT TODAY:

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

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: 1st Visit I've been here a few times I attend here often I'm a member

If you are a 1st or 2nd time guest, how did you hear about Gateway? _____

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