

WELCOME

December 11, 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
- **Family Room and Nursing Room Available by the Restrooms.**
- Join us for corporate prayer // 9AM // Conference Room & Zoom
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 // *ON BREAK

GET CONNECTED:

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 |

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5
Come and celebrate the Eve of Christ's birth in our candlelight service on Dec. 24th at 5PM. Invite your family and loved ones!

MEET AND GREET // TODAY // 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' TODAY 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!

END OF THE YEAR JOY OFFERING

Please read the envelope provided inside the bulletin to see the various ministry needs and opportunities that were not fully covered in our 2023 budget. We ask that you prayerfully consider and join us in this joy offering by giving to these causes that we believe make a great impact in our church and community. gatewaymerced.org/give

COLLEGE STUDENT HOUSING

We oftentimes have students in our ministry (INSPIRE) ask if there are any homes or rooms available to rent. If you are interested in renting to one of our students for a short or long term, feel free to contact Pastor Kevin at kborges@gatewaymerced.org to help get that started!

"RANDOM" ACTS OF PRAYER

Want to give a gift each day that costs nothing but a minute of your time and attentiveness to God's Spirit? We are again participating in "Random Acts of Prayer" for the month of December. Each day during this month, pray for a specific person, need, incident or situation God brings to your attention - not a prayer for ourselves/families/friends (which you hopefully are already doing) but for someone God impresses on your heart in the community, offering it to God as your Random Act of Prayer Gift for the day. It might even change a person's life!

WORLD RENEW // GIFT CATALOG

In this season of giving, help people who live in extreme poverty experience more of the fullness of life God intends for them. A chicken, a goat, or a handwashing station are just a few of the ways you can change lives through World Renew. Go to worldrenew.net/gifts to find out more and to give. Gift Catalogs are available at the information table.

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.

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 12-11-22

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:**

As a child, what got you the most excited when you knew it was coming? What did you dream about having or doing?

SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT: Luke 2:8-20 - Joy

DIGGING DEEPER:

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

1. Read aloud Luke 2:8-20. In verse 10 the angel says he has good news of great joy. Why was the news great and why was it joyful? What are the ways we express joy for Jesus today? Let's review an old Psalm to find out!
2. Read aloud Psalm 150. The Hebrew word used there translated "praise" has a primary meaning "to shine" and can be used to mean rejoice. List the ideas in verses 1 and 2 that are causing the psalmist to "shine." Respond to how those truths have given you joy.
3. Verse 2 has the phrase, "Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!" or "His great magnificence." When was the last time you considered this personally and why should this stir joy in you?
4. In verses 3-5 there are a variety of instruments. What would these instruments equate to today and have you experienced the way instruments played for God's glory can lead you to joyful praise? Are there any you particularly love to hear or play?
5. Verse 4 also speaks of dancing as a way to express your joy before God. Note, David in 2 Samuel 6:14 as you answer this question. Where are the appropriate places and ways to dance for joy?
6. Praise and joy are such expressive words, so what are the easier ways for you to express joy...and what are your most difficult? How can you now look at expressing joy in praise and respond more in line with Psalm 150?

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
DECEMBER 11, 2022

The Wonder of
CHRISTMAS

Communication/Prayer Request Card

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.

December 11, 2022

Name: _____ Change in Contact Info

Email: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Best Contact Phone: _____

I'm new to Gateway: 1st Visit I attend here often I'm a member

I've been here a few times

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

