

WELCOME

December 12, 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

Family Room and Nursing Room Available by the Restrooms.

- Join us for corporate prayer // 8AM // Conference Room & Zoom

www.gatewaymerced.org/events

- 1st - 5th Grade // 9AM & 11AM // Rooms D1 - D4
- 6 Weeks to Kinder // 9AM & 11AM // Preschool Wing
- Catalyst High School - *On Break*

TUESDAY

Crossroads Middle School - *On Break*

THURSDAY

- INSPIRE College & Young Adult - *On Break*

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 |

December 26th ● 10AM Service ● Childcare provided for 6wks-Kinder

STUDENT MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

Weekly Youth Groups are done for 2021 but we still have one more event for all 6-12th grade students. This Fri., Dec. 17 from 7-9PM, we will be watching a Christmas movie (rated PG) together that will be chosen by voting via our Instagram stories (@gatewaymercedstudents). Free snacks will be provided. All students are invited to join us for our last event of 2021!

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. Our community Christmas tree is covered with ornaments that have giving suggestions for people in need around the world: You are invited to choose an ornament and bring it, along with your donation, to put in the World Renew offering on Christmas Day. 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.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

Please check the cart under the stairs to claim any lost and found items that might be yours. Any items that are left after Sun., Dec. 19 will be donated.

HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES // TODAY // 1:30PM

Please join us TODAY for Ice Skating in Atwater. Ages 3+ is \$15 for an hour which includes your skates. \$5 for assist rental and \$5 for a helmet, if you would like. We will meet there at 1:30PM (we get an hour to skate). To register, email Jen Parra at JDGhimenti@aol.com.

MERCED RESCUE MISSION / WINTER DONATIONS

Mittens, coats, scarves, socks...this Christmas Eve we will be giving donations of winter apparel to the Merced Rescue Mission. We encourage you to drop off items at the Guest Booth. Be a part of bringing warmth and cheer to locals in need!

"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.

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 12-12-2021

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 brought you the most happiness when you were young?

SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT:

Luke 2:1-14 - "The Angel's Song"

DIGGING DEEPER: A Study in Psalms of Joy

1. Read Psalm 16:11. This passage speaks about two expressions of joy along the path of life in God. How much does the world understand this type of joy or what does the world equate as joy?
2. Read Psalm 30:5. When we hear that joy comes in the morning, it means that we had to wait through the night. Can you share a time when you waited for God and at the right time He showed Himself? Talk about that struggle and that emotional response when you knew He was taking care of you.
3. Read Psalm 43:4. Who does this passage say is the author's joy? Read a few translations of this verse. What are ways people can know God as their joy and delight?
4. What would it mean to have a personal "altar of God?" Consider some of the possibilities and discuss together what that would look like and consist of.
5. Read Psalm 47:1. Notice two things: clapping and shouting. Discuss what these two have to offer as vehicles of praise and joy in your worship.

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

December 12, 2021

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 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? _____

