

W E L C O M E

December 3, 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

E V E N T S

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM | FRI, DEC 8 | 6:30PM

You're invited to join us for a Christmas musical performance by the Children's Ministry, followed by cookies, cocoa, and lots of family fun celebrating God's sweetest gift.

YOU'RE INVITED! | DEC 10TH | 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 on Dec 10th, 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.



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.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS | DEC 17 | 2-4PM | ROOM A4&5

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? Join us for a 2-hour event called Surviving the Holidays where we talk about how to deal with grief around the holiday season.



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 12-3-23

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 is the most unique birth announcement you have ever seen? What made it unique?

SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT:

"Christmas through the eyes of the Shepherds"

DIGGING DEEPER:

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

1. Being honest, how does the "look" or "status" of a person impact whether you believe something they say or not? Where have you seen a person's social status influence whether people believe what they say? Read Luke 2:8-20 together
2. Of all the people the angels could have visited, why did God send them to the shepherds? How does that relate to Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55)?
3. How might you have reacted if an angel appeared to you while at work?
4. If you had been with the shepherds on the night Jesus was born, what would you have done after the angels left?
5. What should be our response when we know what God wants us to do?
6. What does it mean that Mary "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart?"
7. What is the responsibility of those who "discover" the good news about Jesus? Who needs to be told about the birth and life of Jesus Christ?

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? _____

December 3, 2023

CHRISTMAS

THROUGH THE EYES OF...

GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH
DECEMBER 3, 2023