

WELCOME

December 4, 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 // 8PM // Gym

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!

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

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS // SUN. DEC. 18 // 2-4PM // ROOM A4&5

Bittersweet memories. Loss of traditions. An empty seat at the table. The holiday season can trigger sadness and despair for people grieving a loss. Join us for a 2-hour event called Surviving the Holidays where we talk about how to deal with grief around the holiday season. For reservations or more info, contact Rob Mansfield at (209) 383-9383 or by emailing Rob at jacobswell.merced@gmail.com.

"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

GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH
DECEMBER 4, 2022

The Wonder of
CHRISTMAS



The Wonder of Christmas - Gateway Groups, Merced
"Bond Together/Grow Together" // For the week of 12-4-22

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:**

What kinds of situations, people or thoughts make you nervous or make you worry? How do you handle that emotional stress?

SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT: Philippians 4:4-13

DIGGING DEEPER:

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

Read Ephesians 2:11-22 together. Think of a theme you would title this section of Ephesians and discuss your ideas after reading.

1. Who are the people without hope and without God(vs. 12) that Paul is referring to here?
2. By what means did their standing change(vs. 13)? How would you consider your standing in relation to Jesus today, in light of this? When did your life change from "without hope and without God" to WITH hope and WITH God?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus has provided these things along with peace as a result? How and where has that impacted your life?
4. What was Jesus' purpose, according to vs. 15? How could you remember this purpose in the coming days, with Christmas a few weeks away?
5. Read vs. 18 and discuss what benefits having access to God the Father in your life provides.
6. Has peace been an immediate reward for you, something eluding you, or something you continue to pursue? How does it make you feel that peace is a promise for the believer?
7. Where can you share this peace with someone else, this week?

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?

Communication/Prayer Request Card

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.

December 4, 2022

Name: _____ Change in Contact Info

Email: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

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? _____