

WELCOME

December 5, 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 // 7PM // Gym

-Snowbell will be a fancy night getting served Taco Bell by your leaders and lots of other Christmas fun... TONIGHT (\$5 Donation appreciated but not required).

TUESDAY

- Crossroads Middle School // 7PM // Gym
- Chaotic Christmas is a crazy fun time with snacks, an ugly sweater contest and more... Tuesday Dec. 7. (\$5 Donation appreciated but not required).*

THURSDAY

- INSPIRE College & Young Adult
- Christmas party this Thursday night at 7PM! Please contact Pastor Kevin for more information as we will be having it at a home outside of Merced or look for details on Instagram @inspiregateway*

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

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 5PM

Q&A WITH BRENNAN // WORSHIP PASTOR

As many of you have heard, we were blessed to have a new Worship Pastor come on board this past month! There are many of you who have expressed curiosity to meet him, hear his heart in leading our Worship team and welcome him to our family. Come and meet our new Worship Pastor after each service in C6. He'll be more than happy to answer any questions!

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 // DEC 12TH // 1:30PM

Please join us Sunday, Dec. 12th 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, please let us know on your communication card or with Jen Parra.

"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?

GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH
SUNDAYS 9AM & 11AM

Songs of
Christmas

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced
"Bond Together/Grow Together" // For the week of 12-5-2021

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:**

Describe struggles people have in their faith journey and what results, positive or negative, have you witnessed due to struggles?

SUNDAY'S MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT:

Luke 1:26-56 "Mary's Song"

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Luke 1:29-38

1. What promises are given to Mary in this passage (there are at least 3)?
2. What promises fulfilled in Scripture became important and foundational for your faith journey? (ie - God fulfilling specific prophecies, God's delivering people in scripture, or verses from Psalms, Proverbs, and other books of the Bible)
3. Share any promises from God that are most important for you living out your faith today? Do you have those Bible verses available to share?
4. Zechariah became mute because he asked a question out of disbelief (Luke 1:20). Mary asked a question (vs 34) but her faith was revealed to be firm in the promises Gabriel conveyed. How would you have responded to Gabriel's word, if it was you? Would you have been more like Zechariah or Mary? Why?
5. How does Mary's faith, at the young age of 15-16 as most theologians agree, reveal something you can hold onto and even share with others about God's promises?
6. Who can you share 1 promise of God with this week? When can you do it?

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 5, 2021

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.

Name: _____ Change in Contact Info

Email: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Best Contact Phone: _____

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

1st Visit I've been here a few times

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