

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 12/3/2023

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?
8. 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?