

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

For the week of 1/14/2024

### 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:** How many times, since 2020, have you "hoped you didn't have Covid"? How many of those times were you accurate?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** 1 Corinthians 13 - Hope

**Digging Deeper:** *(Teachers/leaders, feel the freedom to NOT ask every question.)*

Read Romans 8:18-30

1. Define hope as you know it.
2. What do these verses say is happening in all of creation(vs. 20, 22)? What hope is there for the creation's future(vs. 21)?
3. Why would Paul compare creation's "groaning" to the Christians "groaning" in this passage?
4. Vs. 24-25 goes on to speak about hope specifically. How would you define hope according to these verses?
5. How should hope stand as a staple, rudder or compass for your life and future glory in Christ? Explain it together.
6. What does Paul say we can "know", related to our future(vrs. 28-30) and is this a good definition of hope?
7. Is "hoping for tomorrow to be sunny", or "that I won't get sick this week", or "that I hit the lottery", a good definition of hope and a confident expectation in your life? How does that type of hope differ from what you've learned in this passage?

**Apply it today:** What was most important for you to remember today and why?