

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 1/21/2024

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: Who was the hardest person for you to love growing up? What happened to make this person hard to love and did you ever resolve this?

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

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

Read Ephesians 3:14-21 together

1. What, specifically, does Paul ask God to do for these believers in his prayer for them? (there are multiple things in vrs. 16-20). Which ones resonate with you most?
2. How has your prayer life included love directly for other believers, as Paul models? What are the points you see in these verses that may be helpful for you to apply to your prayer life?
3. How does Paul describe God's love for us in vs. 18b and how would you describe this type of love to others in your own words?
4. Look back over the definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and pick out which one you are good at and which one you need to improve on? With this exercise, you can be encouraged and also challenged to grow in love.
5. 1 Corinthians 13:8 states that *"love never fails"*. How do you feel about never failing at love and would Ephesians 3:19-21 have anything to help you in this pursuit? What is the key ingredient to fulfill this type of love(Vs. 20-21)?

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