

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

For the week of 1/28/2024

### 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 someone who loved you the most growing up and how did they show it?

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

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

Read John 3:16-21

1. How do you determine loving the world in your life?
2. Let's have some clarity on how to love the world. What's the difference between "the world" in John 3:16- 21 and "the world" in 1 John 2:15-17? Is "the world" defined the same in both scriptures or differently? How do you, personally, determine the best interpretation between these scriptures?
3. How does the gospel, as given in John 3:16, impact how you love the world? What are some examples of how you love the world this way?
4. If Jesus gave His life in loving the world, what is it that we should be prepared to do in loving His world?
5. Take a look at Ephesians 4:32-5:2. How does this type of attitude and action win unbelievers to Christ? How does it help believers?
6. What are the ways you can "love the world" within the church today, both for believers and unbelievers alike?
7. What ministries in the church allow you to "love the world", and how?

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