

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 8-6-2023

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: Do you know any rich, powerful or important people personally? Are they close to you? Do you change your behavior around them?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Elohim - Genesis 1:1-3

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

1. Elohim is the Hebrew word for God(what He is) and Jehovah is His name(who He is). Can you consider for yourself what the difference might be for what you are and who you are?
2. Read Exodus 6:3. This is where God reveals His name, Jehovah, to Moses. What seems striking that godly men before Moses were not told His name? Talk about the honor of knowing God's name.
3. Read aloud Psalm 89:11. Who does everything belong to? Have you considered this truth that none of your stuff belongs to you? What should that change in your behavior?
4. Read aloud Isaiah 42:5. Consider that even your breath is a gift from God. What should be your response to Elohim in light of the fact that everything we have was supplied by Him, even your current breath?
5. Read aloud Genesis 2:15-17. Why do we get angry when we find out there are things in this world He does not want us to have? How important to your walk with God is it to willingly, lovingly take "No" for an answer?
6. Read this passage that is describing Jesus. Colossians 1:15-20. There are too many ideas to discuss here, but search the six verses and talk about some of the ideas that inspire and fill you with joy.

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?