

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 1-15-2023

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:** Before you were saved, or even now, what were you good at? What activities or skills gave you the most pleasure?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Exodus 31:1-11 "Talents"

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

1. Read aloud Exodus 31:1-5. Since becoming a Christian, have you been aware that God has gifted you in any new ways, spiritually speaking?
2. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:28. In that verse, "appointed" means to set in place or ordain. How does God work through a church to set people in place that He has gifted? How have you experienced this in church?
3. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Paul speaks about spiritual gifts. How can a Christian learn to walk in the gifts that God has given them? Can you relate your experience in learning how to use your gifts?
4. Express any joy, frustration, questions or thoughts on spiritual gifts now.
5. During this series of sermons, there is a focus on now and "What's Next?". Think about the present, the needs, the opportunities, as well as the fears and insecurities. Are you feeling prompted by the Spirit to act on your talents? What things hinder you in responding with your gifts?

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?