

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 1-16-2022

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:** Have you or someone close to you worked to become an excellent athlete? What do you remember about the pain and hardship of it and what kept you or them going?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Revelation 2:8-11 "Hope through the Struggle"

Digging Deeper: Read Revelation 2:8-11

1. Do you know of a church that has experienced persecution in recent history? Have you ever considered how you would handle that?
2. Read aloud Hebrews 12:1-3. Talk about Jesus and His hope through the struggle. What words from this text stand out to you and challenge you in how to follow Jesus in perseverance?
3. Read aloud Acts 5:40-42. How were these men able to rejoice in suffering? What suffering have you experienced(not necessarily physical)? Have you ever considered it a joy to have experienced that?
4. Read aloud 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. These verses speak of the comfort of God, specifically the Holy Spirit coming alongside us in trials. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's comfort in sufferings?
5. Read aloud Philippians 3:7-10. Suffering conforms us to His death and allows us to know His power. What has the power of God provided for you through your suffering?

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?