

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 10-17-2021

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:** Growing up, were there people in your community who you knew you did not want to be like? Whether rich or poor, old or young, loud or quiet, who were some of them and why did you not want to be in their situation?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text 1 Samuel - Ephesians 4-5 "What's in Your Bucket"?

Digging Deeper: Read out loud Matthew 25:31-46

1. Read again vs 35 and 36, What are the categories of need that are being addressed? Are there any you care to share where you were the one in need and how the church(God's people) did or did not help?
2. When your life crosses paths with the lives of people who have these needs, how do you think, feel, respond? What about these encounters is difficult for you in this situation or what is easy?
3. How do you go about changing the way you respond to those needs when you are confronted with them?
4. What motivation do you have that could provoke you to go outside of your comfort zone to reach out to those you do not have a natural affinity with? Motivation either from fear or love?
5. What do you do when you feel the tug on your heart, but feel inadequate (Your bucket is empty) and your own need seems too great for you to reach out?

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?