

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 10-24-2021

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:** Have you ever had to teach, instruct, lead someone who you could not relate to because of their personality, appearance, demeanor, attitude? How did you work through it? Did it end well? Did you learn anything?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text 1 John 4:7-16 "Love Even the Difficult People."

Digging Deeper: Read out loud Luke 6:27-35

1. Read vs 27-28 again. How would it be possible to treat someone well who was an open enemy, who claims they hate you? Have you ever walked through this with anyone that you would like to briefly explain?
2. Read vs 29-30. This appears to speak of physical issues, but what is the underlying principle believers are to follow? How easy is it for you?
3. In vs 32-35 talks about credit/reward for responding in love. What does this mean to you? Is this reward a motivation to try to love people in difficult situations?
4. Read vs 35. Have you had any God moments where you were able to follow this direction? Would you care to explain how God moved in you?
5. In the same verse, we see that God is kind to ungrateful and evil people. What do you think this means?
6. Read vs 36 again. Talk once more about God's mercy to you and how that spurred you to be merciful.

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?