

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 11-14-2021

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 considered the extra stuff you have in your home to be needless? How could you release it and walk away to avoid being entangled by it anymore? How would you feel if you did that?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Hebrews 12:1-3, Proverbs 30:7-9, 1Timothy 6:17-19 -
"Uncluttered - Stuff"

Digging Deeper:

1. Read aloud Hebrews 12:1. The words "entangles", "besets", or "clings so closely" describe those things in our lives hindering us from living out our faith well. What "things" keep people from running well in their faith?
2. Verse 1 speaks of laying "weights (encumbrances)" aside so we can run the race. Why is it so difficult for us to get rid of things even after we realize how they hinder our walk with God?
3. Read aloud Proverbs 30:7-9. Focus on v 9. What does it mean in this context when a person says, "Who is the Lord?" In this case, is it the result of having too much? Have you ever been satisfied with "things" and had a lesser interest in God? How does that type of distraction make you feel?
4. From Proverbs 30:7-9, what are the things that are most important? How difficult is it to keep your focus on the most important things? Easy or Hard?
5. Read aloud 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How does the truth of "storing up a treasure" motivate you? In a practical sense, what would this mean for your life?

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?