

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 11-27-2022

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:** Can you remember anyone in your life who seemed to like you no matter what? Talk about them a little, how they showed this approval.

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: John 3:16

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

1. Read aloud 1 John 4:8-16. Notice the phrase that occurs twice: God is love. What does this mean to you? How have you seen Him in loving action?
2. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 13:4-13. Look at the attributes in this passage and consider that since God is love, these describe Him. How is He patient and kind to you?
3. Consider that He does not brag, nor is He arrogant. What would it be like if He did?
4. The New American Standard verse 5 says love is not unbecoming. If you have other translations, what do they say? What is this? Why would God not act this way?
5. From verse 5 we could also say that God is not self centered, not irritated or exasperated. Why might it seem to us that He can be this way? What gets our thinking off track?
6. God rejoices in truth and righteousness. Why do those delight Him?
7. Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things. How does this speak of Who God is and how He treats us?
8. Verse 8 says that gifts come to an end, but God's love never does. Can you talk about why gifts end, but God's love does not?

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?