

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 12-12-2021

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:** What brought you the most happiness when you were young?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Luke 2:1-14 - "The Angel's Song"

Digging Deeper: A Study in Psalms of Joy

1. Read Psalm 16:11. This passage speaks about two expressions of joy along the path of life in God. How much does the world understand this type of joy or what does the world equate as joy?
2. Read Psalm 30:5. When we hear that joy comes in the morning, it means that we had to wait through the night. Can you share a time when you waited for God and at the right time He showed Himself? Talk about that struggle and that emotional response when you knew He was taking care of you.
3. Read Psalm 43:4. Who does this passage say is the author's joy? Read a few translations of this verse. What are ways people can know God as their joy and delight?
4. What would it mean to have a personal "altar of God?" Consider some of the possibilities and discuss together what that would look like and consist of.
5. Read Psalm 47:1. Notice two things: clapping and shouting. Discuss what these two have to offer as vehicles of praise and joy in your worship.

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?