

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 12-18-2022

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:** Who is a person you trust to do what they say? How did you come to trust this person? How does trust relate to hope?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Romans 15 - Hope

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

1. One Hebrew word translated "Hope" means to wait, or wait for. Read aloud all of Psalm 31 with this in mind. Look at verses 1 through 5. What are the ways you see the psalmist waiting in hope for God? How have you done any of these?
2. In verses 7 and 8, there is hope fulfilled. What is his response to God coming through?
3. In verses 9-13, the psalmist describes his trials where he waited and hoped in God. Have you experienced any of these difficulties? How did you maintain hope?
4. In Verse 14, the psalmist says "You are my God." How does that declaration give him hope? Have you found hope in declaring the truth?
5. Look in verses 15 through 17 for expressions of hope, where the psalmist chooses to hope in God. Which can you relate to?
6. From verse 18, how have "lying lips" disheartened you? How did you fight it?
7. Verse 22 speaks to momentary failure to hope. What causes this? How have you fought through it?
8. Verse 24 gives a recap of what happens when you choose to hope in God. How do you choose hope? What are the results you have seen?

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?