

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 1-30-2022

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:** It is often discussed that people feel love in different ways. Some appreciate time spent, some respond to gifts, some to encouraging words. Have you ever struggled to help someone feel loved?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6, Colossians 3:12-14

Digging Deeper: Read aloud 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

1. What are the ways people tell on themselves without saying anything?
2. Why would Paul say these believers are "letters written on our hearts, known and read by everyone"?
3. What is the significance of being the product(letter) of another's spiritual work in your life? Think through the spiritual mentors you have known. Who do you believe could call you their "letter"?
4. In vs. 5 and 6 Paul uses the word "adequate" or "competent". What does that mean to you to be adequate or competent according to Paul's words?
5. Vs. 6 - Have you ever had the feeling that you had to be perfect? In school, at home or otherwise? What does that produce emotionally? How does the Spirit give life?
6. Read aloud Colossians 3:12-14. Talk about the deliberate nature of clothing yourself with the qualities listed in vs. 12.
7. Vs. 14 says that love is the perfect bond of unity. Compare the church that has a perfect bond of unity with the one that is missing it. Do you have any experience in either you could share?

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?