

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 2-20-2022

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:** What was the most difficult class you ever took? How much "suffering" did you endure through that experience and what did you learn?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Revelation 3:7-13, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 -
"Opportunity through Suffering"

Digging Deeper: Read aloud Revelation 3:7-13.

1. What are the things Jesus condemns this church for? What does He commend them for?
2. How would you define their condition at this church?
3. What promises does Jesus give them that we can bank on? Vrs. 9-10. What questions do you have about these promises and is it ok if we don't have all our questions answered?
4. Does every church go through spiritual persecution and suffering? How difficult is it to go through suffering and trials when nobody notices?
5. Read aloud 1 Peter 4:12-16. What is Peter's perspective on suffering for Christ? How foreign is this for a Christian in America?
6. Why does 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 speak of weakness becoming our strength? How can a bankrupt person, meaning powerless, have the power to stand against the struggles? How does Jesus work that in you?

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?