

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 3-28-2021

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

Look back over your sermon notes from this week's teaching. Discuss the message briefly. Was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

***Opener Question or Activity:** Was there ever a club people wanted you to join but you weren't interested? Did you ever get persuaded to join? Why?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Luke 23:32-43 "The Thief on the Cross"

Digging Deeper: Luke 23:32-43 "Heart Change"

1. In Matthew 27:44 and Mark 15:32 the thief, who believes upon Jesus here in Luke, is seen as a mocker and reviler against Jesus. This thief had a change of heart. Discuss what evidence in the passage reveals his change of heart here in Luke.
2. Whether or not you have had a change of heart and trusted in Jesus, think about this question. Can you recall why you didn't have a change of heart earlier in your life?
3. This question is related to your story and how and when your heart was changed. Christians call this their "testimony." At this time, go around the group and take time for volunteers to share their testimony! What caused your "eyes to see and ears to hear" for the first time?

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?