

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

**For the week of 9-4-2022**

### 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:** If you have worked for a company, or a small business, or been on a committee, have you ever seen anyone whose personal agenda had nothing to do with the needs of the business, but who insisted on forcing decisions to adhere to their agenda? What were the results?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Luke 12:23-59 End Times - Be Ready

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

1. Read aloud Luke 12:23. Notice the emphasis on the importance of our life and body, and the de-emphasis on food and clothing. What can you see? How should we live, in light of the eventual end of the world?
2. Read aloud Luke 12:25-26 and 1 Peter 4:2. Worry here in Luke means to be anxious or promote your own interests. Again discuss this issue in reference to the fact that Jesus is coming back and how your self-interests fit into what is coming? Use both passages.
3. Read aloud Luke 12:32. The fear in this verse is intense, the kind that makes you want to flee. Think about and discuss how despite God's promise of a kingdom, there are times you are afraid and want to return to what feels familiar and comfortable. A crisis of faith.
4. Read aloud Luke 12:34. The word treasure speaks about what a person has collected and saved up, not just something they prize. Discuss how this treasure comes to be in Heaven. Do you have treasure in Heaven?
5. Read aloud Luke 12:37. Notice a phrase at the end of the verse saying that the Master, who represents God, will wait on them, meaning to minister like a deacon. Can you envision this in eternity?
6. Read aloud both Luke 12:51 and Luke 2:4. Both use the same Greek word for peace; in one verse He brings peace, in another He does not. Study context and think about this and talk about what the difference is.

**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?