Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 5-22-2022

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 is an exciting adventure/skill you could share confidently with someone else in teaching them?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Luke 5:1-11 Putting Our Confidence in Jesus

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

1. Pastor Mark focused his message on putting confidence in Jesus and not the flesh. Where are you susceptible to veering off course by trusting yourself more, instead of trusting in God?
2. Read Hebrews 12:1-3 together. This comes right after speaking of all the faithful saints from the past in ch. 11. What is the direction we are to take from these 3 vrs? How does this relate to confidence in your Christian walk?
3. How does perseverance/obedience lead you to trust God more with your life?
4. Depending on your translation you will see a reference to a "weight," "obstacle," "encumbrance," "hindrance" in vs 1. It refers to the load you carry, not good or bad, just your usual distractions from being focused on God's plans. How do we figure out what part of that can be laid aside to free us to run with perseverance towards Christ?
5. In vs. 2 what does "fixing our eyes upon Jesus" look like to you and how will your courage in trusting Christ be strengthened, in your personal situation?
6. Vs. 3 tells us to "not grow weary and lose heart". How much do you need to hear and apply this to your life today so you have more confidence in Jesus?

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?