

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 11/5/2023

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: Discuss if you have ever had difficulty submitting to an authority over you and why.

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Romans 13:1-7, Acts 4:18-20 "Politics"

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

Read Romans 13:1-7 together.

1. Politics today can be a divisive subject in most environments. Do you think we should be discussing this within the church? Why or why not?
2. How often is the word "authority"/ "authorities" mentioned in these verses? Why would Paul bring this subject into the church to understand?
3. Does verse 1 make sense for you today, in all and every society? What is difficult to understand? What is easy to understand and accept and why?
4. How does it make you feel that God speaks to government and authority within the Bible?
5. Is there ever a time this passage of Scripture could be difficult to carry out? Any examples come to mind? Read Acts 4:18-20 to see if Christians must always submit to the governing body over them.
6. After going through this study, is there one overarching theme you can summarize this passage by? Discuss this before closing in prayer.

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?