

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 5/12/2024

### For you as the Teacher/Host

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:** When was a time when someone hurt you so bad you "repaid" them back? How did it make you feel at that time?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Romans 12 - Living in Faith

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

Read Romans 12:9-21 together in the New Living Translation

1. What stands out to you from the NLT version that is helpful due to the language used? Which key words or phrases are most impactful?
2. How can a Christian learn to love others as God loves them?
3. Have you ever experienced how one hated evil yet did not hate the evildoer(vs. 17)? Share how this impacted you.
4. Explain what genuine love is defined as according to 12:9, 13, 18-21. In light of evil(vs. 17), how are you to live at peace with everyone(vs. 18)?(Use "I, me, my" statements...not "we, us, them")
5. How does doing good to an enemy overcome evil(vs. 21)?
6. These are really difficult passages to many people. How about you? Do you find them easy to carry out, or difficult, and why?
7. Whom do you need to love and bless this week even though he or she has hurt or hurts you?

**Apply it today:** What was most important for you to remember today and why?