

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 8-20-2023

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: What activities do you enjoy doing along with other people? Why? What activities do you like doing by yourself? Why?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Ephesians 5:21-33

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

Read Ephesians 5:21-33 together

1. What words are used to describe the attitude of a relationship between a husband and a wife? Are there any that are hard to understand?
2. How many verses speak to the wife's responsibility as opposed to the husband's responsibilities in the context of marriage?
3. Is there a specific teaching here that may get abused? Is there one that is not understood clearly today and misinterpreted?
4. Why would Paul use the church and Jesus as an example(vs 23-27) to relate within the context of marriage? Discuss how this matters today.
5. Vs 33 seems to convey that a wife is to love her husband differently than a husband is to love his wife. Does this make sense? Why the differences?
6. What do you learn about God from this text on marriage?
7. What does an unbelieving world think of this teaching? Have you ever had conversations about marriage and the Bible with others? What do they say?
8. What questions about today's study have you gotten answers to or not?

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?