

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 7-3-2022

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 do you think of people who just put security signs or stickers outside their home or business but do not have an actual security alarm? Is this wise and is this how you would guard your most valued possessions?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Luke 8:1-21

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

Read aloud together Proverbs 4:18-27

1. What type of theme or big idea can you take away from this passage?
2. In verses 18-19, discuss the result of living in the light as opposed to following the way of darkness.
3. Discuss why the author focuses on the heart and why he emphasizes its importance in verses 21-23.
4. Does society at large "guard their heart"? What is the way a believer should "guard their heart" and what would be the result of an unguarded heart?
5. Look at each verse in 24-27 and give the practical ways from each verse we let our heart be unguarded.(Mouth, lips, eyes, feet)
6. How easy is it for you to guard your heart in today's world? What are the reasons for that? How will you apply these truths in your life this week?

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?