

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

For the week of 2-21-2021

### 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

Look back over your sermon notes from this week's teaching. Discuss the message briefly. Was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**\*Opener Question or Activity:** Think back to when you were younger. What was something you changed your mind about after you realized you had been wrong? Maybe it was something serious, or funny, or just a new revelation.

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Romans 8:5-17, Proverbs 1:7(Loving the Lord your God with all your....mind)

### Digging Deeper:

Read **Matthew 16:21-23**

1. Why do you think Peter thought he knew more than Jesus?
2. Can you describe a time where you found yourself thinking you knew better than God what was good for you? This may have occurred without even realizing you hadn't "consulted" with God on it. Explain
3. How did Jesus deal with Peter?(vs 23) How does He deal with you when you need to have your thinking fixed?

Now let's fast forward to look at Peter after some maturity and time had passed. **Read Acts 10:9-21, 27-29**

1. Peter kind of argued with God in vs 14, didn't he? What is the difference to Peter's response this time, as opposed to when he told Jesus what to do in Matthew 16? Is there a new character strength Peter displays?
2. When was a time in your life where you realized what you saw or thought about the Bible, Jesus, or Christianity needed to change because of your new understanding and spiritual growth? Think back and remember.
3. When confronted with being wrong about a belief, are you willing to face it, admit it, and turn from it?
4. Pastor Al preached on Loving the Lord our God with all our "mind", this week. Do you see the connection to how we do this by aligning our thinking as we grow spiritually, to God's Word and the Holy Spirit's work in showing us where to change?

### 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? Like Peter, are you now looking and responding to Jesus differently than when you were younger in the faith?