

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 2-7-2021

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**(related to the topic taught): Name 1 sports team you are/were most passionate about growing up. Explain how you showed your excitement and enthusiasm for your team.

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Deuteronomy 6:1-7, 13 **"Loving God with all our heart"**(*the seat of thought and emotion, inner man, desires, courage, understanding*)

Digging Deeper: Read these - 1Samuel 13:14, 16:7, Acts 13:22

(Review this weeks passage and discuss some deeper questions related to it)

1. What do these passages say about the kind of heart God is looking for? Based on the definition of "heart" from Sunday's message, what would you say God is looking for in us?
2. What do you know about David? What kind of evidence from scripture revealed his heart? Use these verses to start your discussion - 1Sam. 16:18, Psalm 51, 2Samuel 23:3
3. Pastor Kevin mentioned how having the fear of the Lord seemed to be a common character strength of those who love God with all their heart. What questions or thoughts do you have about what the fear of the Lord means to you in your life? How do you apply it?
4. Review Acts 13:22 again. Paul mentions how God found David and *"He will do everything I want him to do."* Why would God say that about a man who sinned so greatly?(2Samuel 12:9)
5. Why can we relate so easily with David , despite his failures?
6. What are the things hindering you from becoming "a man/woman after God's own heart"?

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?

What is God calling you to do with Him or for Him, today? Make a note of it and be that Man or Woman after His heart!