

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 3-7-2021

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:** What is one thing that you either tried to persuade someone else of or that someone tried to(or did) persuade you to do?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Matthew 27:26-54

Digging Deeper:

Acts 24:24-26

1. What would you say was the motive Felix had in listening to Paul talk about Jesus(vs 26)? Even though Felix is "non-committal" as a skeptic, describe Paul's response to still presenting the gospel?
2. Are there people in your life who seem to be "non-committal" to the gospel? How do you respond to that?

Acts 17:16-19, 29-34 - Paul's debates in Athens, Greece with the philosophers

1. Describe the scenario of Paul "reasoning" with these philosophers. How would you have this type of discussion with co-workers today?
2. What was the variety of responses Paul experienced(vs 32-34)?
3. What evidence was there that the Holy Spirit was at work with some of those there?
4. How can this study help you in witnessing to your friends or neighbors.....or skeptics?

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?

Who is one person who is responding to any of your talk about God, and not rejecting you or Him?