

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 4-18-2021

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 was something that took you a long time to learn or become proficient in? How many times did you fail?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: 1 John 1:5-10

Digging Deeper: 2 Samuel 11

This week, Pastor Mark spoke about having unshakable faith in the midst of failure. One of the most well known stories in the Bible of failure was David. Imagine being a neighbor of King David and seeing this story unfold: adultery, pregnancy, murder, cover-up, confession, death of the baby, then David marries Bathsheba and they conceive Solomon!

1. How would you feel if you knew someone who claimed to be a Christian and did what David had done?
2. Can you put into words the difficulty you may have in accepting and loving someone who failed this badly?
3. Is it difficult for you to believe that God would forgive you and use you again? Read over 1 John 1:9 together and discuss.
4. David confessed his sin(2 Samuel 12:13) and God forgave him although there were consequences. Sin has consequences and those consequences shouldn't stop us from serving God. How should we move forward in God's mercy, and have unshakable faith even through those consequences?
5. When you review your faith, despite your failures, what steps can you take(or are you taking) to live out your faith in the mercy and grace God has provided?

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?