

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of January 10, 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:** Who are the people in your life who taught you some important skills such as learning how to walk, ride a bike, fish, play music, read, sing, throw, etc.? Would 2-3 of you want to share one story?

Main Scripture Text: 2Timothy 1

Digging Deeper - Take some time and read through 2Timothy 1 together as a group.

(Review this week's passage and discuss some deeper questions related to it.)

1. What are the words used to describe Paul and Timothy's relationship? Vs. 3-5 What does this say about a Generational relationship we can seek to have?
2. Would a couple people like to share an example of someone who has been this type of "Generation 1" for you...a person or group of persons who cared about you, discipled you, and with whom you share love and joy for each other?
3. Read over vs. 11. Paul states he was "appointed a herald, and an apostle, and a teacher." Would there be any reason to deny God has appointed you and me for anything significant related to discipleship? Take a look at Matthew 28:18-20 and take 2 minutes individually to personalize these verses. Would a couple people be willing to reveal their personalized rendition?
4. What are some reasons discipling someone is difficult? Fulfilling? Discuss your experiences and ideas.
5. Read over vs. 13-14 together in at least 4 different translations. Describe what ways you can keep the "sound teaching" you have received over the years? What elements of the Christian's obedient living can you list as a reflection of "keeping" and "guarding" what has been entrusted to you?

Apply it today

1. Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why?
2. Write down some of the wonderful "Generation #1" people God put into your life (*anyone who paved the way for you to grow to know God both before and after your conversion - aka "Spiritual Ancestors"*)?
3. How can you fully take hold of what God invested/is investing in you through them? Even if you haven't had someone invest in you this way, you can still reach out to someone else and be that for them. Try and share one practical way.