



**“Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly -- not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.”**

**1 PETER 5:2-3 NLT**

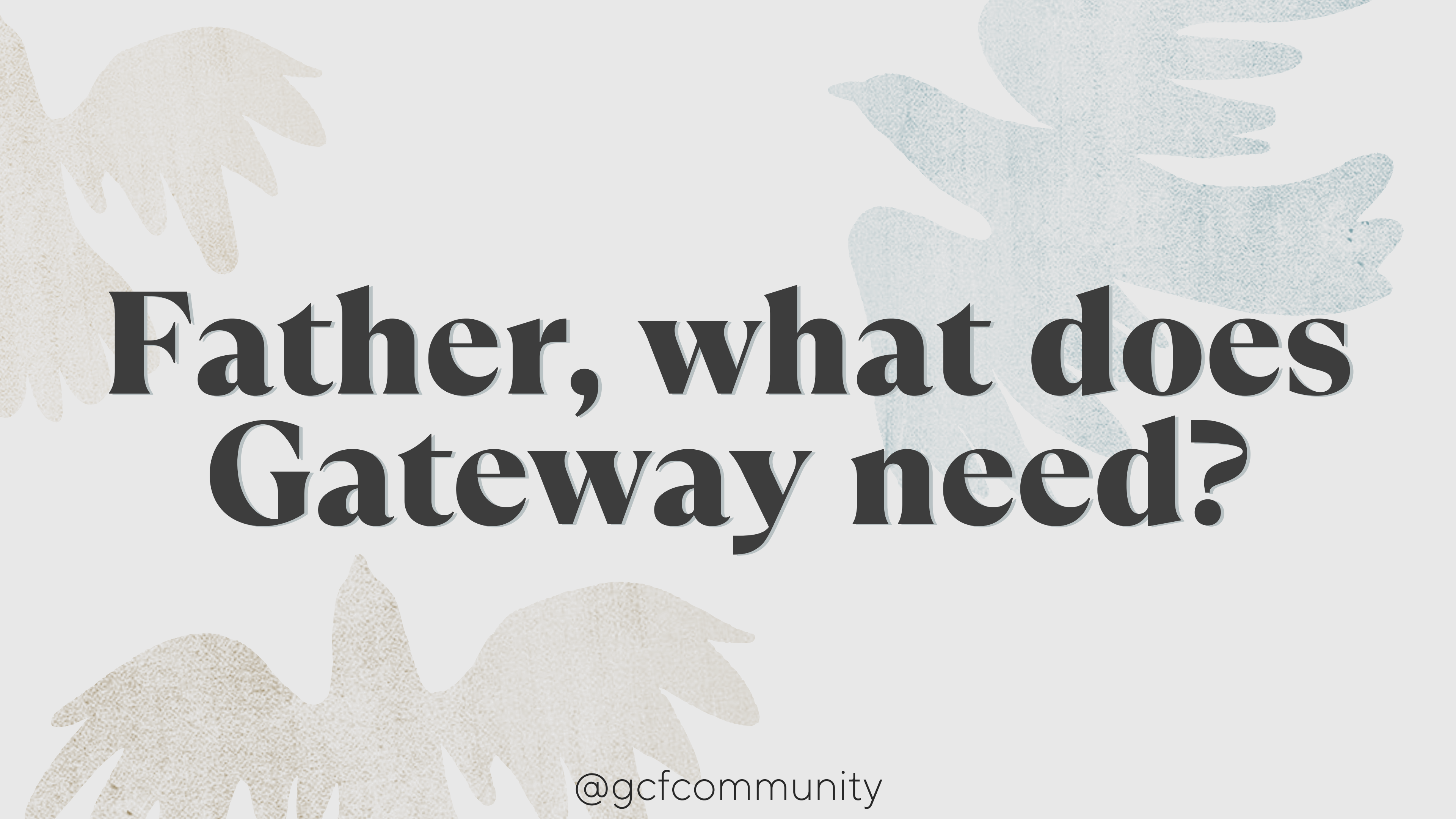
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# Father, what does Gateway need?

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The background features several stylized hand silhouettes. Some are a textured gold color, while others are a muted blue-grey. The hands are positioned as if reaching out or supporting each other, creating a sense of community and aid.

# **A Helpful Word for Hard Times**

**HOPE. FRIENDS. WORDS.**

Hope

The word "Hope" is written in a white, serif font with a thin black outline. It is centered horizontally. Behind the letters "o", "p", and "e" is a stylized flame graphic. The flame is composed of several overlapping, teardrop-shaped elements in shades of light orange and yellow, with a darker orange base. The flame appears to be rising from behind the text.

An illustration featuring five hands of different skin tones (light beige, tan, and brown) arranged in a circle, each holding a central red heart. The hands are positioned at the top, bottom, left, and right, with their fingers pointing towards the heart. The heart is a solid, vibrant red color.

**A Trusted Friend**



**A word**

**from God**

**“I wish I stayed in touch with my friends and given my friendships the time and effort they deserve. Everyone misses their friends when they’re dying.”**

**— Bronnie Ware**



**We are designed by God for  
connection, relationship, and  
friendship.**

**As we go through life, the desire for connection with others remains constant. Human connection is essential; it is what we crave. It communicates a sense of security, allowing the heart to relax and become more receptive.**

**Friendship offers advantages to enjoy, adversities to overcome, and a friendship-building approach to embrace.**



**“A friend loves at all times, and  
a brother is born for a time of  
adversity.”**

**PROVERBS 17:17 NIV**

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**“There are ‘friends’ who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.”**

**PROVERBS 18:24 NLT**

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**In a world seeking warm and welcoming connections, I hope we sustain our friendliness so that each person can enjoy the advantages of friendship, overcome adversities, and engage in a helpful friendship-building approach.**



An illustration featuring five hands of different skin tones (light beige, tan, brown, and dark brown) arranged in a circle, holding a central red heart. The hands are positioned as if they are gently cradling the heart. The background is a light, neutral color.

**A Trusted Friend**



**“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”**

**ECCELESIASTES 4:9-10 NIV**

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# What adversities do friendships overcome?

**Self  
Past**

**Ignorance  
Busyness  
Technology  
Lifestyle**

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**During our formative years, our families shape us, and as we grow older, we transition to the influence of our friendships.**