

BAPTISM

NEXT Weekend (Jan. 31/Feb. 1) at both campuses

What do baptism and the Super Bowl have in common? Aside from happening on the same weekend, they are both statements of identification. Many of us identify with a football team by wearing its jersey or hat or other sign of devotion. Baptism is an outward sign of our devotion to our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is not a requirement for salvation, but an act that Jesus modeled for us by his own baptism. Sign up online at westgatechurch.org/baptisms.

EXPLORE: DOUBT, QUESTION, SEARCH

Thurs, Jan 29, 6:30-8:30pm @ WG Saratoga.

Dinner provided & Childcare available.

If you feel like the church is a foreign place, and would appreciate a comfortable and open place to doubt, question, and search for answers, come hear Jay Kim discuss the story of God and what it means for us today, as well as some of the confusing language and culture of the church. Learn more at westgatechurch.org/explore.

DIVORCE CARE

Tuesdays, 7-8:30 @ WG Saratoga, in room 301 starting Jan 27

While every situation is unique, there are people who can relate to your hurts, emotions, & experiences. Divorce Care is open to anyone experiencing divorce or separation. Feel free to invite a friend or co-worker. The group starts on Tuesday, January 27 and continues for 13 weeks (room 301 at the Saratoga Campus). There is a \$15 cost for the workbook. Find out more or sign up by emailing Scott Larson at Scott@scott-larson.com.

JHM WINTER OVERNIGHT

Feb 13-14, 8pm-8am @ WG South Hills

Attention all middle school students! JHM WestGate is throwing a huge Winter Overnighter at the South Hills campus on February 13-14. You can expect to see things like Inflatable Lazer Tag, Zorb Balls, Neon Dodgeball, a talent show, all the food you can handle, and so much more! Get signed up today online at westgatechurch.org/students/junior-high! Don't miss out on a night you won't forget!

KIDZTOWN LIVE—WHERE KIDS TAKE THEIR PARENTS TO LEARN

Feb 4, 5:30-7:30pm @ WG Saratoga; RSVP to kids@westgatechurch.org

KIDZTOWN LIVE is just around the corner. Come enjoy a FREE pizza dinner and our fun, interactive, music and drama-filled production! The life application for February will focus on Kindness - "showing others they are valuable by how you treat them." Bring your friends and we'll see you there! Don't forget to email kids@westgatechurch.org by February 2nd to RSVP.



A STORY ABOUT BAPTISM

Getting Excited about God by Stephanie Iles

When I became a Christian in 1999, I was hesitant to get baptized because I had already done that as a baby, and I didn't really understand why it would be significant to do it again as an adult.



When I attended university, I owned a motorcycle. Back then there was no helmet law. I would not wear one because I didn't want to be uncool. The truth was, it scared me not to wear a helmet, but I was young, and cool was more important than safe. Soon a law was enacted and I HAD to wear a helmet. I was relieved and happy that I had to wear my helmet.

When WestGate became my new church, I was faced with a new requirement: they ask that leaders be baptized. I felt similar to when the helmet law was enacted: "Yes! I'm out of excuses." The truth is that I felt many times over the years that God was calling me to be baptized, but I kept thinking I'd look silly or it was too late, and I chose disobedience. I'm willing to say out loud that I'm grateful to WestGate for emphasizing the importance of baptism. It is a blessing.

I learned that my fears of having waited too long were ridiculous. It's never too late. Everyone was so supportive and loving. People cheered for me and got excited about God. How can getting excited about God ever be wrong?

WEEKLY SERVICES

<u>Day</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Event</u>
Sat	Saratoga Saratoga	Worship Services, 5 & 6:40pm JHM (<i>Jr. High Ministry</i>), 6:40pm, Gym
Sun	Saratoga & South Hills South Hills Saratoga South Hills	Worship Services, 9:30 & 11:15am JHM (<i>Jr. High Ministry</i>), 9:30am, Youth Room No HSM this weekend (<i>High School Ministry</i>) No HSM this weekend (<i>High School Ministry</i>)
Thurs	Saratoga	L2 (<i>College & Young Adults</i>) 7pm, Gym

COMING UP

Find more info under "More" and "News & Events" on our website. Questions? Email staff@westgatechurch.org.

Discover Six40 Life - Starting the week of Jan 18, 2015 (9 weeks)
Discover WestGate - Sun, Jan 25, 1-4pm @ WG Saratoga
Divorce Care - Starts Jan 27, 7-8:30pm @ WG Saratoga (13 weeks)
Explore - Jan 29, 2015, 6:30-8:30pm @ WG Saratoga
Baptisms - Jan 31/Feb 1, all services
KIDZTOWN LIVE - Feb 4, 5:30-7:30pm @ WG Saratoga
Restore (Addiction Recovery) - Tues nights, 7-8:15pm @ WG Saratoga
Single & Parenting - Tues nights, 7-8:30pm @ WG Saratoga
GriefShare - Mon nights, 7-9pm @ WG South Hills

GIVING

UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF 01/18/15

General Offering:
Received: \$94,036
Budgeted: \$95,973

Fiscal YTD: (09/01/14—01/18/15)
Received: \$2,400,457
Budgeted: \$2,326,152

WestGate Water: (09/01/13—01/18/15)
Weekly Recycling Total: \$585.67
Inception to Date: \$28,948.56
17.3% toward our 8th well—in Guatemala

LOUD Compassion/Missions YTD:
01/18/15 - Current Received: \$519,678
(includes Advent Conspiracy)
Pledge Cards: 183
Please note: any designated missionary gifts will be applied to the LOUD fund.

Got questions about giving, OR want to set up online giving?
Visit: www.westgatechurch.org/give

Myth Conceptions Lost in the Gospels

The Issue: Is the Bible we read today accurate to the person of Jesus and is it culturally relevant?

1. The timing of the Gospels is too early to be legend
2. The person of Jesus is too controversial to be a manufactured leader of a movement
3. The textual evidence of early manuscripts guarantees accuracy of what the early church embraced
4. The story of Jesus is too counterproductive to be myth

What did the church of the first century believe and preach?

¹ Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. ² It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.

³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.

⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.

⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:1-7 NLT

This is most important

Jesus died for sins _____

He was buried _____

Raised from the dead on the Third day _____

Seen raised _____

What role should the Bible play in a believer's life?

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

Teaching — What's _____

Rebuking — What's _____

Correcting — How to _____

Training — How to _____

Jesus' question for you today...

“Who do you say that I am?”

Get more...

Free CDs of our sermons are available in the Saratoga lobby after the service. WATCH, LISTEN TO and get the NOTES & DIGGING DEEPER for the sermons online at www.WestGateChurch.org under “More -Weekend Experience” [updated on Sundays at 3pm] **Use iTunes?** Go to www.WestGateChurch.org/podcast and subscribe to the sermons for free.

Week of January 25, 2015

**LIFE GROUP
MATERIAL**

Myth-conceptions

Part 2

QUESTION 1

There's an undercurrent in our culture that the Scriptures are unreliable - that men have tampered with them to the point where we don't even know what was originally said - or even worse, that there was an intentional conspiracy to invent Jesus to control people. What do you think about this undercurrent of thought? How could it affect the way someone actually lives their life?

QUESTION 2

What could a reasonable, thinking Christian say to counter these lines of thinking? How confident are you that the Scriptures are an accurate and reliable depiction of Jesus? How have you dealt with the idea that the Scriptures are historically unreliable in your own walk of faith?

QUESTION 3

Do you think it's possible for a Christian to take the Bible too seriously?

QUESTION 4

Can you remember a time when the Scriptures came alive to you? Hebrews 4:12 reminds us that, "the word of God is alive and active." 2 Timothy 3:16 reminds us, "All Scripture is God-breathed." When and how have you experienced these truths in your own life?

GROUP ACTIVITY 1

In the message this week, Steve refers to 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 together as a group. After you read it aloud as a group, interact with the text by yourself for a few moments.

What is Paul attempting to say to the first Christians? Write down at least 4 observations about the text. After a few minutes, share those observations with your group.

QUESTION 6

Read Hebrews 4:12 and 1 Timothy 3:16. How do these passages speak of the Word of God?

QUESTION 7

This week, spend some time reading, meditating on, and memorizing 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

The theologian John Stott once said, "We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior." In order to allow the Word of God to do all these things in our lives, we must develop a certain level of trust with it. How much do you actually trust the Scriptures?

GROUP ACTIVITY 2

John Piper wrote, "There is not a single mature Christian I know who does not interact with Scripture on a daily basis. And there is not a single immature Christian I know who does."

As a group, brainstorm a way to interact more with Scripture this week. It might also be good to brainstorm ways you could connect with each other to talk about what you've learned. For example, you could pick a Gospel and begin reading it (HINT: Mark is the shortest Gospel). Then, pick a time when you can talk about what you are learning (perhaps on your commute).