

## FOR WOMEN—GIRLFRIENDS' GETAWAY

March 20-22 (FRI. 3 PM – SUN. 12 PM) @ Koinonia Conference Grounds. Cost = \$185  
It is only two weekends away. At this women's retreat, you will have a chance to explore what it looks like to be brave, to encounter God's brave plan for your life, and to engage with a fresh community of brave women. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon. Learn more and sign up at [westgatechurch.org/brave](http://westgatechurch.org/brave) or outside at our table today.

## EXPLORE: DOUBT, QUESTION, SEARCH

SUN. March 29 @ WestGate Saratoga (11:15 AM – 12:30 PM)  
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 and sign up at [westgatechurch.org/explore](http://westgatechurch.org/explore).

## BAPTISM

The Weekend of March 28 & 29 at both campuses  
Baptism is about freely and publicly proclaiming your choice to follow Jesus as savior. While it is not a requirement for salvation, it is an important step along the road that Jesus walked. It is about both proclamation and celebration. It is about Six40 Discipleship. Sign up at [westgatechurch.org/baptisms](http://westgatechurch.org/baptisms).

## DISCOVER WESTGATE

WED. March 25 (5:30 – 8:30 PM) @ WestGate South Hills (Fellowship Hall)  
If you are new to WestGate or have been around a while and have not yet connected into community, this is a great place to begin. It is a relaxed way to hear our church's story and vision for Six40 Discipleship from Steve & Dana, as well as to meet others looking to connect. A free meal and childcare are included. Sign up at [westgatechurch.org/discover-westgate](http://westgatechurch.org/discover-westgate).

## PEACEMAKER WORKSHOP

14 weeks, Thursdays starting March 12 (7-9 PM) @ WestGate Saratoga  
This workshop uses the Resolving Everyday Conflict curriculum from Peacemaker Ministries, a DVD and deep discussion-based study that teaches what the Bible says about conflict and relationships. The Gospel is about God's love that reconciles us to him, and peacemaking takes that reconciling love and applies it to our relationships here on Earth. Together we will explore some topics such as: the root cause of conflict, when to overlook an offense, what makes a good apology, what forgiveness really means, how to deal with difficult people, and more. Join us on Thursdays for 14 weeks starting March 12 from 7-9pm at the Saratoga campus. Email [kristin@kristinlawrence.com](mailto:kristin@kristinlawrence.com) to sign up. \$8 cost for workbook.



# FOOTSTEPS TO THE CROSS

During my youth and early adulthood, Easter time included two major events. There was the joyous celebration of Easter Sunday for Christ's risen defeat of death. But also, there was the Good Friday observances. Almost all stores and business closed from noon till three when churches had Good Friday services.



Over the past thirty years or so that custom has changed. Good Friday has become just another regular day of work. The time spent in contemplation of the sacrifice Christ made, the pain, agony, and humiliation he went through has been lost.

Footsteps to the Cross has, for me, brought back a time of reflection and thought of all that Christ suffered that day. Going through each of the devotional stations and listening, looking, and taking part of the theme of that station helps bring into focus what Christ had to endure. To sit quietly and think about Christ helps to make one more aware of his journey to the cross.

One year, there was a station with several backpacks filled with rocks, representing the sin Christ took upon himself for us. Lifting one of those heavy backpacks helped me realize the magnitude of the load of sin He lifted from mankind. Another year, there was a cross and we were encouraged to drive a nail into it. It made more intense in one's mind what Christ's last minutes on earth were like.

I would encourage everyone to thoughtfully take the time to visit Footsteps to the Cross.

-Fred Schulenburg

**Come by the WestGate Saratoga Theater any time between 7-9pm on March 31 or April 1 to experience Footsteps to the Cross.**

# 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 HSM ( <i>High School Ministry</i> ), 5pm, Gym HSM ( <i>High School Ministry</i> ), 7pm, Youth Room
Thurs	Saratoga	L2 ( <i>College &amp; Young Adults</i> ), 7pm, Theater

## COMING UP

Find more info under "More" and "News & Events" on our website. Questions? Email [staff@westgatechurch.org](mailto:staff@westgatechurch.org).

**Peacemaker Workshop** - 14 weeks, starts March 12, 7-9pm @ WG Saratoga  
**Girlfriends' Getaway** - March 20-22  
**Discover WestGate** - Weds, March 25, 5:30-8:30 @ WG South Hills  
**Baptisms** - March 28/29, all services  
**Explore** - Sun, March 29, 11:15am-12:30pm @ WG Saratoga in the Gym  
**Walk with Jesus** - March 31 & April 1, 5:30-8pm @ WG Saratoga  
**Footsteps to the Cross** - March 31 & April 1, 7-9pm @ WG Saratoga

## GIVING

UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF 03/01/15

**General Offering:**  
Received: \$117,577  
Budgeted: \$120,812

**Fiscal YTD: (09/01/14—03/01/15)**  
Received: \$3,052,638  
Budgeted: \$2,952,962

**WestGate Water: (09/01/13—03/01/15)**  
Weekly Recycling Total: \$340.12  
Inception to Date: \$31,602.18  
65.5% toward our 8th well—in Guatemala

**LOUD Compassion/Missions YTD:**  
03/01/15 - Current Received: \$582,728  
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](http://www.westgatechurch.org/give)

## The Parenting Tetris Adoption

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:27 NIV

### Local Adoption Resources:

Unplanned Good - [www.unplannedgood.org](http://www.unplannedgood.org)

Real Options - [www.realoptions.net](http://www.realoptions.net)

Hand in Hand Foundation - [david@handinhand.us](mailto:david@handinhand.us)  
831-438-3736

### Notes:

#### 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](http://www.westgatechurch.org) under "More - Weekend Experience" [updated on Sundays at 3pm] Watch current and past sermon videos online at [vimeo.com/westgate](http://vimeo.com/westgate)  
**Use iTunes?** Go to [www.westgatechurch.org/podcast](http://www.westgatechurch.org/podcast) and subscribe to the sermons for free.



Week of March 8, 2015

# Parenting Tetris

## Part 2

### About Disappointment

Have you ever felt disappointed with God, that He is treating you unjustly? How did you or are you working through that?

How have you addressed God in disappointment? How has He responded to you?

### About Parenting

Why do you think people desire to have children - being willing to undertake the challenging, sacrificial, and often painful journey of parenthood?

Where does this common human desire come from, maybe including that generally nurturing attraction to newborns, infants, etc.?

How do you think children affect a parent's identity? Is there a connection?

### About Identity

*Adopt* means "to take by choice into a relationship" (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). How have you experienced God's choice of you? Consider Ephesians 1:4-5 as a starting place in Scripture.

These questions are designed specifically with Life Groups in mind, to help you apply the teaching to your life.

Not in a group? Browse for a group online at [www.westgatechurch.org/known](http://www.westgatechurch.org/known) OR contact [groups@westgatechurch.org](mailto:groups@westgatechurch.org) to find the right one for you!