

OUR VISION

*To be a gospel-centered community
living each day on mission for Christ.*



Westgate Church

100 Winter St. Weston MA 02493

www.westgate-church.org

To be a gospel-centered community

The Gospel is at the center of *everything*

The *gospel* is good news of what God has done to establish his kingdom and deal with our sin through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the heart of the Christian faith and the central message of God's written and authoritative Word, the Bible.

The **GOSPEL** tells us:

WHO is at the center of our lives: the Triune God—the Father, who sent his eternal Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:3-14).

WHAT God has done and is doing: Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for us, God is rescuing people from their sins, restoring them to a right relationship with him, and changing their lives to love and serve him (Rom. 1:16; Col. 1:15-23; Tit. 2:11-14).

HOW God is doing it: God rescues and changes us by his grace, as the Holy Spirit applies the truth of God's Word to our lives (John 16:7-15; Rom. 8:28-39; Eph. 2:1-10; Tit. 2:11-14). The gospel affirms that our sin really is sinful, but that God's grace in Jesus really is sufficient to deal with our sin (Rom. 3:9-26; 6:1-14; 1 Tim. 1:15-16; 1 Jn. 2:2).

WHY God is doing it: to make much of his name and glory throughout all creation in accordance with his sovereign plan (Isa. 44:6-8, 22-23; Acts 2:22-24; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Phil. 2:5-11; Eph. 1:3-14; 3:10).

The gospel is not just a message for non-Christians, as if once we begin our relationship with God by grace through faith, we then grow and serve God by works and human effort. Rather, the same grace of God that was at work by the Spirit to rescue us from sin's penalty also transforms, equips, and strengthens the whole of Christian life and mission (Titus 2:11-14).

We never outgrow our need for the gospel of Jesus.



living each day on mission for Christ.

Gospel Mission, Gospel Community

The gospel of Jesus doesn't leave us the way it finds us. Rather, it bears fruit among us in **COMMUNITY** and through us in **MISSION**. By community we mean *relationship*—with God and with each other (Eph. 4:1-17). By mission we mean *purpose*—we have been rescued for a reason, to serve God by bearing witness to the gospel of Christ in both word and deed and making disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:1-23).

Mission and community mutually reinforce one another. On the one hand, community is a fruit of the gospel's mission as God draws people to himself, unites them in Christ, and refashions them into the image of Christ (Col. 1:3-14). At the same time, mission takes place in the context of community, as we bear corporate witness to the transforming grace of God through our proclamation and love (Jn. 17:20-23; Phil. 1:27-30).

We envision our **community** to be so anchored in the gospel of Jesus that our relationships are increasingly characterized by:

- Personal repentance and holiness as we are renewed in the image of Christ (Rom. 5-8; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:21-24)
- Joyful satisfaction in Christ (Phil. 3:1-11)
- Authenticity fueled by grace and humility and committed to reconciliation (Eph. 4:1-3; Col. 3:12-17)
- Sacrificial love, encouragement, and service for one another (John 15:12-13; 17:20-23; Eph. 5:1-2; Heb. 10:25; 1 Pet. 4:10; 1 John 1:1-10)
- Dependence on prayer and the Spirit's power (Rom. 8; Phil. 4:6-7)
- Unwavering faith in the promises of God (Rom. 4:20-21)

As a gospel-centered community, we envision our partnership in **mission** to be so shaped by the gospel that our service to God expresses itself in:

WORSHIP that recognizes God's holiness and reflects that holiness in our daily lives while depending entirely upon God's grace (Psa. 15). We see our gathered worship shaped by the Scriptures, centered on God, and marked by the following values:

- Reverence and joy expressed by humble hearts in gospel-saturated song and prayer (Psa. 145; 146; Rev. 5:8-14)
- Faithful, gospel-centered sermons that engage both our personal lives and the cultural stories that surround and shape us (2 Cor. 4:1-6; Acts 17:16-34)
- Appreciation for diversity in the Body as we unite under our common Head, Jesus Christ (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-26; Eph. 4:1-6; Jms. 2:1-13)
- Hospitality and winsomeness toward newcomers; accessibility toward all (Col. 4:3-6)

WITNESS that declares Christ through faithful and clear proclamation matched with merciful and loving service (Matt. 28:18-20; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 4:1-6; Luke 10:25-37; 1 Thess. 2:8). We see our witness being borne out in the following contexts:

- Every member living as a missionary, treating every sphere of their personal lives as a mission field (e.g. home, work, church, school, grocery store; Acts 1:8; 17:24-31; 2 Cor. 5:12-21)
- Home Fellowships and other small groups partnered together to advance the gospel through their own specific ministry focus (Jn. 17:20-23; Phil. 1:27-30; 1 Thess. 1:2-10)
- Congregation-wide partnership in church planting and other strategic initiatives or events (Acts; John 12:24-26)
- Kingdom-wide partnerships with fellow laborers in the MetroWest and New England and with missionaries across the globe (Phil. 1:7, 27-30; 4:10-20)

DISCIPLESHIP that helps form character and train both affections and skills in following Christ (2 Tim. 2:14-26). We see our discipleship guided by the following initiatives:

- To teach the Scriptures at every level of ministry with a view toward the grand storyline of redemption and its central gospel message (Luke 24:25-27; 44-49)
- To develop elders who serve together as overseers, shepherds, and trainers (Acts 20:17-38; 1 Tim. 4:6-16; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)
- To provide intentional leadership training for every level of ministry at Westgate and for broader kingdom ministry (2 Tim. 2:1-2)
- To cultivate a pervasive culture of life-on-life discipleship (e.g. families, friends, coworkers, home fellowships) aimed at fostering maturity, equipping for gospel service, and passing the faith on to the next generation (2 Tim. 2:1-2; 3:10-17)