





OUR
MISSION:
TO LEAD PEOPLE

TO FIND PEACE WITH GOD,
LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER,

PURPOSE IN LIVING, AND JOY
in life through Christ.

this guide will help
you learn who we
are, what we value,
and how you can
join us in fulfilling
our mission.

OUR HISTORY

In the late 1980s, First Baptist Church of Midland had a vision of planting a mission church to reach the people of northwest Midland. A severe economic downturn in the oil-based Midland economy put such plans on hold. The plans, which were resurrected in the late 1990s, became the pieces of what would ultimately become Stonegate Fellowship.

In 1998, First Baptist Church put together a New Church Start Committee, and shortly thereafter, a Pastor Search Committee for the yet unnamed "new church." First Baptist Church not only agreed to release a good number of its membership to start the new church, but also committed \$300,000 of its budget surplus as "start-up" funding for the new church. On August 15, 1999, Stonegate opened its doors to the public. Since then, Stonegate Fellowship has experienced incredible blessings from God.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

Stonegate is a place where people from the Permian Basin can learn about and experience a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. As a community of Christ followers, we strive to help others find peace with God, love for one another, purpose in living and joy in life.

OUR PROCESS



Community

"Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor."

James 3:16-18 (The Message)

We believe that we were not created to live and do life alone, but we were created to live in authentic friendship as we journey with Christ together.

PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTS



Under Community

COM.groups - COM.groups are adult small groups designed to be a place to build authentic friendships as we move together toward lives of greater influence. COM.groups are for everyone at every stage of life. They are filled with people who are in different stages and different places of the spiritual growth journey. We will work with you to connect you with a group that best fits your present journey as a Christ follower.

LifeGroups - a place for students to experience real, authentic community. They are a place to meet people, hang out with friends, eat great food, and discuss the important issues that students face everyday! Our hope is that through community, the scriptures, and encouragement everyone will learn how to live the best possible life!

Growth

"God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love-like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love." Ephesians 4:13-15 (The Message)

We have discovered that spiritual growth doesn't happen by accident, but it is the result of developing a strategy that is intentional and measurable.

Influence

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16 (The Message)

We are convinced that the calling of every follower of Christ is to live a life of influence in the church, in the community, and in the world.

Under Growth

Spiritual Growth Plan (SGP) - A simple tool to help you identify where you are in your journey as a Christ follower and a pathway and some suggestions on how you set personal growth goals for the coming year.

Life Courses – LifeCourses were designed to facilitate intentional growth through learning in a small group setting.

Under Influence

Leadership at Stonegate is not just about the function of the position of service on campus; leadership at Stonegate is more about a life stance. Our various ministry teams offer you an opportunity to live a life of influence in the church, in the community, and in the world.

WE VALUE



Community

Relationships are important. As the Stonegate body continues to increase in the number of people attending each week, it becomes more difficult to get to know and connect with others. For this reason, an environment was created which contains all the essential ingredients for building strong relationships where people can enjoy community together.

Community is a place where people walk together through the events of life. It is a place where everyday people can celebrate everyday life, where setbacks are normal and failure is expected, and it is a place where changed lives are the common result.

Growth

We have discovered that spiritual growth doesn't happen by accident. It is the result of developing a strategy that is intentional and measurable. At Stonegate, we are committed to helping you grow as a follower of Christ. We want to help in this journey by providing steps for you to take, one at a time.

Influence

God designed you for influence. Matthew 5:14-16 draws a clear picture of what God had in mind - we are to live before others and leverage our influence for God's glory. At Stonegate we are dedicated to equipping and training you to live a life of influence for God's glory both on and off this campus. God has uniquely shaped you for impact - he has placed you in a specific environment in the marketplace so that you will be salt and light to the on-looking world.

God designed us for influence. Matthew 5:13-16 and Acts 1:8 paint a clear picture of what God had in mind - a life of influence is one that is lived before others in such a way that God uses it to create a thirst for Him in those we are around. At Stonegate we are dedicated to helping you see how God has uniquely shaped you and your specific environment for His purpose and glory. We are committed to helping you live that out each and every day. "Preach the word at all times and when necessary use words." - St. Francis

NEXT STEPS CLASSES

Next Steps 1: Life @ SGF

The Life @ Stonegate Orientation Class will help you learn about who we are, what we value, and how you can be a part of fulfilling our mission.

Next Steps 2: What We Believe – The Story of God

At Stonegate, everything we do and say is driven by foundational biblical truths revealed in the Scriptures. In this class we will focus on these essential biblical truths that are not only important in the life of the church, but also non-negotiable in the life of a Christ follower. Join in this journey to discover the story that God created you to live in—the Story of God.

Next Steps 3: Growth Planning

The first half of the Growth Planning Class offers an opportunity to assess and identify your spiritual growth stage as well as develop a growth plan. We will provide you with practical steps that will enable you to capitalize on your strengths and facilitate growth in areas needing improvement.

Next Steps 4: Growth Planning 2

The second half of the Growth Planning Class offers an opportunity to sit down and discuss your growth plans with another member or leader of SGF. It's a great way to talk to someone about your growth and to see how you can get plugged in at Stonegate.

