



Wifi: Gateway

Pass: gateway.church



welcome

At Gateway it is our mission to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our doctrine is simple; we just want to follow Jesus like Christians did in the New Testament. We have a variety of spiritual, relational, and inspirational activities throughout the St. Louis metro area. For more information visit us at gatewaycitychurch.com or scan the QR code for our church app.

coming events

Singles Devotional (Friday, October 6th, 7pm):

All Singles are invited to our quarterly devotional! Light refreshments will be provided.

Women's Café Night (Friday, October 13th 7pm)

One of the most anticipated events of the year is BACK! Join us for our 2017, Café Night, "God Is Enough". Complimentary desserts and coffee will be provided.

Harvest Hoedown (Saturday October 21st, 6pm)

Women's Fall Retreat (October 27-28)

REMINDER: The Deadline to sign up is this Wednesday, September 27th. You can register by clicking the "Sign Up" tab on our website homepage.

Congregational Soup Night (Friday November 3rd, 6:30pm)

View more upcoming events at our website: gatewaycitychurch.com

resources

All phone numbers listed accept both voice calls and text messages.

Main Campus Office
9300 Stansberry Avenue (63134)
314.653.1615

Jason & Justine Alexander
(Minister/Women's Ministry Leader)
314.287.0025

1300 Washington Campus
314.920.8737

Text 2 Give
Text "Give \$1" to 314.384.9099



[facebook.com/gatewaycitychurch](https://www.facebook.com/gatewaycitychurch)

I'm new: what to expect

We're glad you're here! Worship begins at 9am at our main campus and at 11am downtown (1300 Washington). Main campus: If the sanctuary is full, additional seating with live video streaming has been set up in our Gateway Café.

Church service typically lasts 75-90 minutes. At Gateway we take communion every Sunday; you are also welcome to take communion if you'd like to do so. Like other churches we also take up a weekly offering, however most of our members prefer to give their contribution online through our app, or via "Text 2 Give".

Gateway Kids offers free childcare upstairs each Sunday during the church service. We feature age-appropriate, action-based Bible lessons for children ages 3 months through 5th grade.

If you enjoy the service and would like to go deeper, we would love for you to join one of our weekly small group Bible studies. Talk to one of our ushers or staff members after service for more information.

Elders:

Lu Garcia: 314.952.7308
Tink Sullivan: 573.528.7568

Hi-Point Singles (Adults 35+)

Jessie Martin 618.223.0857

Pulse (Adults 18-35)

Tyler & Kelsey Moser 314.920.8737

College

Jeff Hughes 314.660.5418

High School

Bobby & Hannah Ritter 908.989.0757

Middle School

Karanja & Denise Kiburi 314.249.6682

Gateway Kids

Kristin Homan 636.293.8445

Six Lessons in Active Listening



Listening is one of the easiest things you'll ever do, and one of the hardest.

The charter text for Christian listening might be James 1:19: "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." It's simple enough in principle, and nearly impossible to live. Becoming a better listener hangs not on one big resolve to do better in a single conversation, but on developing a pattern of little resolves to focus in on particular people in specific moments.

Here are six lessons in good listening:

1. Good listening requires patience.

Perhaps we think we know where the speaker is going, and so already begin formulating our response. Or we were in the middle of something when someone started talking to us, or have another commitment approaching, and we wish they were done already.

Or maybe we're half-eared because our attention is divided, by our external surroundings or our internal rebounding to self. As Janet Dunn laments, "Unfortunately, many of us are too preoccupied with ourselves when we listen. Instead of concentrating on what is being said, we are busy either deciding what to say in response or mentally rejecting the other person's point of view."

"Poor listening diminishes another person, while good listening invites them to exist and matter."

Good listening silences the smartphone and doesn't stop the story, but is attentive and patient. Externally relaxed and internally active.

2. Good listening is an act of love.

Half-eared listening, says Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "despises the brother and is only waiting for a chance to speak and thus get rid of the other person." Poor listening diminishes the other person, while good listening invites them to exist, and to matter.

Good listening goes hand in hand with the mindset of Christ (Philippians 2:5). It flows from a humble heart that counts others more significant than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).

3. Good listening asks perceptive questions.

It is the fool who "takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion" (Proverbs 18:2), and thus "gives an answer before he hears" (Proverbs 18:13). "The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water,"

says Proverbs 20:5, "but a man of understanding will draw it out."

Good listening asks perceptive, open-ended questions that don't tee up yes-no answers, but gently peel the onion and probe beneath the surface. It watches carefully for nonverbal communication, but doesn't interrogate and pry into details the speaker doesn't want to share, but meekly draws them out and helps point the speaker to fresh perspectives through careful, but genuine, questions.

4. Good listening is ministry.

According to Bonhoeffer, there are many times when "listening can be a greater service than speaking." God wants more of the Christian than just our good listening, but not less. There will be days when the most important ministry we do is square our shoulders to some hurting person, uncross our arms, lean forward, make eye contact, and hear their pain all the way to the bottom. Says Dunn,

"Good listening often defuses the emotions that are a part of the problem being discussed. Sometimes releasing these emotions is all that is needed to solve the problem. The speaker may neither want nor expect us to say anything in response."

5. Good listening prepares us to speak well.

"The best ministry you might do today is to listen to someone's pain all the way to the bottom."

Sometimes good listening only listens, and ministers best by keeping quiet, but typically good listening readies us to minister words of grace to precisely the place where the other is in need. As Bonhoeffer writes, "We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God."

While the fool "gives an answer before he hears" (Proverbs 18:13), the wise person tries to resist defensiveness, and to listen from a nonjudgmental stance, training himself not to formulate opinions or responses until the full update is on the table and the whole story has been heard.

6. Good listening reflects our relationship with God.

Our inability to listen well to others may be symptomatic of a chatty spirit that is droning out the voice of God. Bonhoeffer warns,

"He who can no longer listen to his brother will soon be no longer listening to God either; he will be doing nothing but prattle in the presence of God too. This is the beginning of the death of the spiritual life. . . . Anyone who thinks that his time is too valuable to spend keeping quiet will eventually have no time for God and his brother, but only for himself and for his own follies."

Good listening is a great means of grace in the dynamic of true Christian fellowship. Not only is it a channel through which God continues to pour his grace into our lives, but it's also his way of using us as his means of grace in the lives of others. It may be one of the hardest things we learn to do, but we will find it worth every ounce of effort.