

VISION NIGHT

Why Church Planting? | Silverdale Bible Church | How you can help

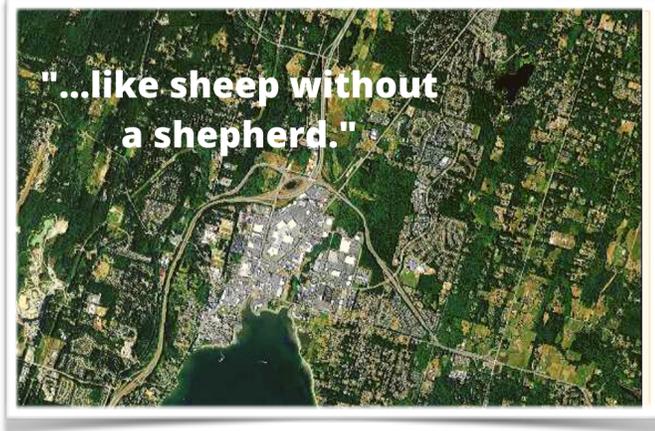
Silverdale

- 19,000+ people
- 6,000+ households
- 40% with children under 18
- 9% single mothers
- 6% over 65
- 1 church for every 1,600 people
- ~11% churched

Jesus...

When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** for them, because they were harassed and helpless, **like sheep without a shepherd**. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to **send out laborers into his harvest**."

Matthew 9:36-38



Why Church Planting?

The Great Commission (Mat. 28:18-20) is a call for church planting. In it, Christians are **commanded** to go and to make new followers of Christ, to baptize them, and to help them mature in their faith. This is happening here locally but there is a lot of work still to be done. To meet the just the current need in Silverdale, the twelve churches there would need to disciple 1,600 people each. This task is simply too large given the current number of churches. We need more faithful bodies of believers serving and laboring in Silverdale.

Not only is the task too large for the current number of churches, but in Kitsap County, 49% of churches self-report as declining or stagnant in growth. To make matters worse, in 2019, seven Kitsap churches closed while only two were planted.

Dr. Timothy Keller puts it this way,

The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for (1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in a city and (2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else—not



Dr. Ed Stetzer said,

"On a per-capita basis, new churches win more people to Christ than established churches. The newer the congregation, the more effective that church is in reaching those who don't know Christ."

If anyone...

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

Matthew 16:24-25

crusades, outreach programs, parachurch ministries, growing megachurches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes—will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow-raising statement, but to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial

Silverdale Bible Church

Silverdale Bible Church's vision is,

to be a family of "called out" ones who love God with all of their heart, mind, and strength and love their neighbors as themselves.

Achieving such a vision would, according to Jesus, fulfill "all of the law and the prophets" (Mat. 22:40). Of course, at no point in this life will SBC live out such perfection, nevertheless, this is the goal we aim for and we rely on God's grace and forgiveness as we continuously fall short.

Love God with all their heart, mind, and strength

The church is not a building or a corporation, but a group of people who were once dead in their sins but who have now been made alive through Christ. These people come together to participate as one body to worship and serve God. They encourage each other to live out their faith affectionally, intellectually, and physically. Loving God changes how we pray, eat, work, and play.

All good elements in the life of the church begin with and flow from God's love and grace toward us in Christ, revealed first and primarily in the Bible. It is His kindness that leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4). It is His Spirit that produces in us righteousness, that removes a heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh (Ez. 36:26). The power of the gospel is what transforms our hearts and lives. **There is no transformation, life, or hope apart from the gospel of Jesus Christ. None.**

Joining SBC means living in dependence on the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Being changed by that grace and mercy such that our lives become living sacrifices of worship; holy and acceptable to Him.

Tim Challies explains,

“Of all the evangelism strategies in the world, of all the ministries in the world, none is more central than the local church.”

“even as we are one”

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one even as we are one**, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, **so that the world may know** that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:22-23

Love one another

Matthew 22:36-40

John 13-17

Acts 2:42-47

Romans 12:9-21

1 Corinthians 8:1-3; 13

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13;
4:9-12

1 Peter 1:22-23

2 Peter 1:5-10

1 Timothy 1:5,

1 John 3-4

Loves their neighbor as themselves.

A church that is devoted to the gospel will also naturally be devoted to loving their neighbors. No matter what else a group has, if it lacks love it is not a church (1 Jn. 4). Brotherly love is the church’s greatest witness and a defining characteristic (Jn. 13:35).

True Christian love is visible and active (James 2:14-17). In the early church, for example, their love for one another could be seen in their devotion to mutual edification and fellowship (Acts 2:42). The early church prioritized spending time together, eating together, to meeting each other’s physical needs, and to building one another up in the truth of the gospel.

In John 17:22-23 Jesus prays that Christians would be as united to one another as God the Father is to His Son. This level of brotherhood is unprecedented in all of human history. Similarly, Paul commands such a holy lifestyle in Romans 12; we are to be living sacrifices, transformed by grace, and filled with genuine love for one another. The ‘one another’ passages are numerous in Scripture and strongly worded.

The love that SBC aims for is gracious and patient but also rebukes and corrects. In rebuking or correcting it seeks not condemnation but repentance and holiness. True love always seeks the other’s best interest, even when it’s difficult or uncomfortable. True love seeks that the other person would know and love Christ more. It rejoices in truth and exalts and replicates God’s own attitude toward the world (Jn. 3:16).

Joining as a member of SBC means dedicating one’s life, through the power of the Spirit, to helping others (inside and outside of the church) to grow in their knowledge of and love for Jesus Christ, through God’s word, in His body the church, and for His glory.

Our mission: that others would know and love Christ more, through His Word, in His Body, for His glory.

What will SBC look like?

Silverdale Bible Church will strive to be **simple**, to be adorned chiefly and above all else with the gospel. We hope to constantly proclaim the **content** of the gospel through preaching, teaching, music, and mutual exhortation and then to provide a **context** in which that gospel can be displayed and lived out, both within the body and in the community. These two factors, gospel content and gospel context, will form the basic structure onto which all else can later be added. As SBC grows and the Lord brings in individuals and their gifts, the church will adorn herself with its own look, feel, and sounds, in accordance with the giftedness of its saints.

Adornments we wish to see added early in the life of the church:

Missions

Men's/Fatherhood ministry

Women's/Motherhood ministry

Children's ministry (Sunday school through 5th grade)

Musical worship

Sunday services:

1:30-1:45 setup

2:00-3:15 corporate worship

3:15-3:30 fellowship

3:30 - 4:00 small group discussion around tables

4:00-4:45 continued fellowship and clean-up

We pray that SBC will be,

faithful to God, gospel centered, Biblically rich, love filled, prayerful, outward focused, focused on individuals, doctrinally rich, evangelistic, missionary, generous, church planting, active, flexible when appropriate, willing to take risks for Christ, financially responsible, kingdom minded, and so much more.

Some of the first items already purchased for the church:

- I. **Bibles** - 2 Timothy 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

You are

Now **you are** the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

On earth

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

— Teresa of Avila

To me

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘**Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’** And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, **as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.**’

Matthew 25:37-40

2. **Communion elements** - 1 Corinthians 11: 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

3. **Baptismal** - Matthew 28:19 ...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

4. **Kleenex** - Psalm 34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

How You Can Help

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. - Psalm 127:1

Please pray for

- The moving of the Holy Spirit
- Faithfulness and obedience to Christ
- Unbelievers to come to faith
- Believers to be built up
- Qualified leadership
- Financial resources and their wise use

Please seek the Lord's will as to

- If you should join this family long-term
- If you should help temporarily
- How you might serve this new church
- Who you might invite
- How you can build up other local churches

Other information:

Silverdale Bible Church is incorporated, 501(c)(3), registered with the IRS, insured, and currently non-denominational.