

Summer 2024

Leap of Faith Learning

Believing in Every Child's Potential

Free to Choose

A Message from the
Executive Director

After completing my master's degree and reaching the pinnacle of my career as an executive officer for a large corporation at the age of 33, I remember sitting in my office thinking "This is it?" So naturally, I decided to start my own national consulting practice and became an adjunct faculty member at a university to share my "vast knowledge and expertise" with graduate students, knowing it would provide the satisfaction I so desired. I remember sitting at the Chicago O'Hare airport on my way to a business meeting thinking, "This is it?"

While I always considered myself a Christian, it wasn't until a serious health condition came along at age 40 that I realized I accepted Jesus as my Savior but never accepted Him as Lord of my life. I was a great pretender, an intellectual Christian which is not a Christian at all. I wanted Jesus without the cross, but the bad news is, He doesn't give us that option. After falling to my knees in tears, I finally chose to be the man, husband and father God designed me to be.

Are you at a similar crossroad in your life? Are you still pursuing fleeting pleasure and happiness or are you ready to find the peace and joy that can only be found through an intimate relationship with God? Please know that no matter how far down the dark

road we travel, God is waiting, we need to just turn around.

Creator – God vs Big Bang & Evolution

We are all given the freedom to choose. We can choose to believe the Earth and the entire universe was created by a random cosmic explosion of dirt that magically appeared or we can believe in God, our Creator. We can believe humans evolved through a series of mutations making us purposeless and having no more value than bacteria or we can believe we were made in God's image with a purpose He determined before the foundation of the world. (*Genesis 1, John 1:1-5, Ephesians 2:10*)

Follow the Prince of Peace vs. the Prince of Darkness

God gives us the choice to love and follow Him or to follow our own selfish desires. As humans, filled with pride, we are easily deceived into thinking we can become like God (*Proverbs 16:18, Romans 3:23, 6:23*). Jesus says He is "the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (*John 14:6, 1 John 3:10, John 8:44*). God is so good, He gives us the freedom to choose.

Biblical Justice vs. Social Justice

There is a huge difference between social and biblical justice. Social justice created by self-serving humans

says if you have less melanin (pigment) such that your skin appears white, you are automatically a racist. If you follow biblical justice, you are to love your neighbor as yourself and show no partiality since we all have equal value in God's eyes (*James 2:8-9, Galatians 3:28*). Social justice glorifies sexual predators who dehumanize us and tell us a teenage boy should be allowed in the girl's locker room and bathroom if he "feels" like a girl. God says He created us male and female, but warns a time will come when we will turn from the truth and follow myths (*2 Timothy 4:3-4, Genesis 5:2*). We are free to choose.

The Choice is Ours

Because of Jesus, we can nail the lies we've been told to the cross. The lie that success is based on the size of your bank account, the car you drive or how many followers you have on social media. The lie that happiness can be found by having sex outside of marriage, using drugs or alcohol to medicate ourselves or pretending to be a different gender. If you are ready to pursue truth and bury the lies, turn to the next page and choose to hear God speak, feel His presence and trust in His love. "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (*Joshua 24:15*)

Ron

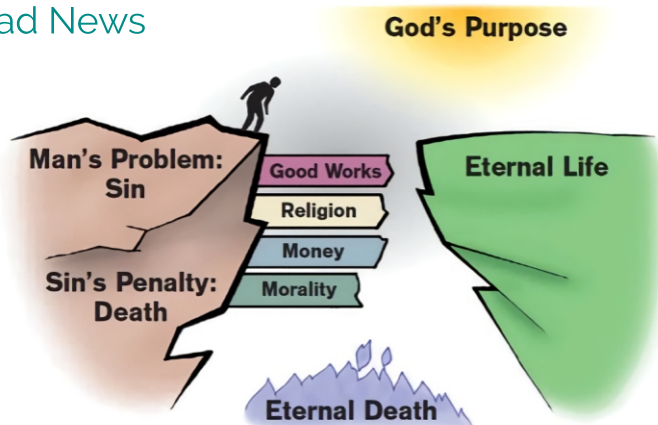


Free to Choose

Before anything existed, there was God. He made this world and everything in it and beyond it. He tells us the pinnacle of His creation was us. He made each one of us uniquely different in His image with an amazing purpose. We were created to love, enjoy and obey Him forever.

from the grave and claim victory over death so we could be made right with God and live with Him forever. Through God's amazing grace He offers this gift to anyone who turns from sin and surrenders His life to Him. ²⁴ *He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we*

Bad News



Unfortunately, we messed up and chose to rebel against a perfect and Holy God which is called sin. ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23* Sin is not a popular term because it sounds intolerant and judgmental and we want to do things our way.

However, if we don't understand sin, we don't understand ourselves or God. A just and perfect God has to punish sin, and the penalty for sin is death. ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23*

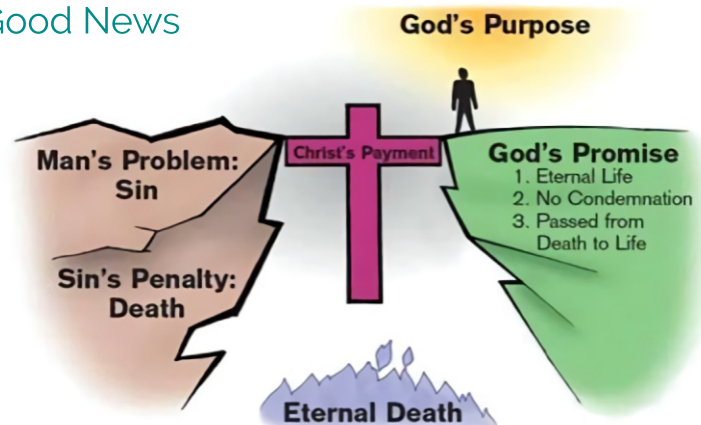
God knew when he gave us free will, we would rebel against Him. There is nothing we can do to earn our way back to God but He loves us so much He planned a solution that is so shocking we can't even wrap our minds around it.

⁸ *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

He sent Jesus to pay the price in our place. ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

Jesus lived the perfect life, took on God's punishment for our sins, died, was buried and on the third day would rise

Good News



might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

We are free to choose. ⁹ *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

¹⁰ *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Romans 10:9-10*

Many of us will reject this amazing, unmerited gift from God because we love the darkness. God doesn't want us to join a religion, He wants a relationship with us. He wants us to love Him and become His children.

¹² *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, John 1:12*

Being a follower of Jesus is very exclusive although it's open to everyone. Jesus tells us, *the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:14)* We are free to choose. If you'd like to discuss God's plan for you, please reach out to anyone at Leap of Faith Learning. You are not alone! We would love to come alongside you and answer your questions not from our perspective but God's. There is no problem you are facing for which God hasn't provided guidance in the Bible.

What's New

Goodbye summer and hello fall! I don't know about you, but I can't wait for pumpkins and oranges and all things fall. While we wait for that wonderful time, read on to see the things we got brewing at Leap of Faith Learning.

Fall Tutoring

The results are in and the staff is gearing up for our fall tutoring program which is starting on September 17th. We have 14 students participating in a variety of subjects. Lots of learning getting started. YAY!

Parent Bible Study

We have a survey out to parents asking about their interest in Bible Study. We'll be starting up the 2nd or 3rd week in September and are hoping to provide childcare if we have enough volunteers.

Children's Bible Study

LOFL is putting together a study geared specifically for our kids to help them develop a biblical worldview and help them discuss a love that never fails.

Vertical Marriage

We are planning to present a small group for married couples. It will be a 5-session workshop this fall to help our parents find the one secret that will change their marriage.

Topics will include The Elusive Secret, Fight like a Man, To Cheer & to Cherish, God in the Bedroom, and All In.

Parent Workshops

Based on feedback from parents, LOFL has already started setting up training programs for the next 12 months to equip our parents to unlock their children's potential.

Special Needs Planning

On September 28th, Nicole Kuck from Eminent Special Needs Planning will be presenting valuable information on guardianship, family & special needs trusts, government benefits and other important topics every parent needs to know. Be on the lookout for text and email reminders and sign-up information.

Acts 2 Fellowship

In October, LOFL will host our next Act 2 Fellowship dinner. This is always a great time for families to enjoy a delicious meal, great fellowship, beautiful worship songs, and a biblical message. Bring the whole family, all are welcome.

Tia

Hello, Leap of Faith Learning Families!

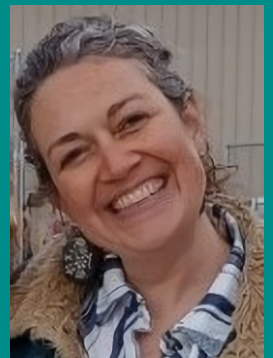
My name is Hollie Lockard, and I'm blessed to join the LOFL team as the new Coordinator of Support Services. I enjoy serving our new families in the enrollment process and working with our students in tutoring and other direct services. God created me with a special place in my heart for special needs kids, and I am thankful He has given me an opportunity to serve the LOFL community!

I come from 15+ years as an educator and hold a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Grand Canyon University. Over the years, it has been my privilege to be a literacy teacher, a homeschool mom, an art teacher, and a kindergarten classroom teacher. Born in Cottonwood in 19mumble-mumble-does-it-really-matter, God brought me back to the Verde Valley 16 years ago in a big, full circle that included living in Papua New Guinea as an MK (missionary kid) for most of my 'tween and teen years.

When I'm not at the Learning Center, my favorite place to be is with my family. (It never hurts if my family happens to be at the beach!) My husband, Anthony, and I have four children, ages 4 to 17. We love to play games, from take-up-the-whole-evening board games to speed rounds of Take-Two Scrabble. Pair a game with a cup of tea, and we'll call that a perfect evening! No game going on? Then I hope I'm crafting, painting, or reading!

I look forward to fellowshiping with you at the next LOFL event!

Blessings, *Hollie*



Thank You to All Who Minister to Our Families

Hero Donors:

- William & Joanne Blatt
- Ray & Terri Finch
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- Burt & Joyce Gerlach

- Ryan & Deanna Harrison
- Kenneth & Christine Herman
- Paul & Debbie Holdren
- Hoppy & Judy Hopkins
- Rich & Sandy Johnson
- "But blessed are your eyes, because they see..." Matthew 13:16 (anonymous)
- Joni and Friends
- John & Paula Mahon
- Cindy Maldonado (In Memory Of)
- The Maldonado Family
- Les Marquis (In Loving Memory)
- Don & Penny Mathieu
- Steve & Shirley Millar
- Miller Valley Baptist Church

- "More of Him, Less of me" John 3:30 (anonymous)
- Nikita (In Memory Of)
- Doug & Lori Orr
- Richard Orr
- Matthew Oxendale
- Joy Elizabeth Prats (In Memory Of)
- Rawlins Family
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- Gil & Ruth Vierra

- Ken Vierra & Nikita
- The Joseph Voorheis Family
- Wayside Bible Chapel
- The Willoughby Family

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- Jude Vachon (In Memory Of)
- Steve & Michelle Vachon
- Verde Christian Academy
- Brian & Sarah Vierra
- Margaret Voorheis
- Paul & Mariko Wallace
- Janice & Rod Wills
- Bill & Debbie Winterburn
- David & Cindy Witt
- The Yarger Family

Join the summer campaign...

to **transform the life of a child with special needs** and their entire family. Every month we receive new applications from families in need of services and support to unlock their child's God-given potential. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of the LOFL family.



We view Leap of Faith Learning as merely a platform by which our wonderful supporters come along side and serve these families and their children who are truly God's workmanship. With our youngest child being 2 years old, we know we may be serving some families for 20 years until the student reaches the age of 22. While every dollar helps us assure our parents they are not alone, we are recognizing our regular, ongoing,

Champion & Hero-level donors through the Wall of Hope. We want to put your name on our Wall of Hope to recognize this ongoing support our children need. Monthly donors giving \$40 or more for individuals or \$100 or more for organizations and Hero/Champion level onetime donors will have their names (or the names of loved ones) permanently inscribed on our Wall of Hope.

Would you consider giving the gift of hope? Any size

donation gets us one step closer to helping another child unlock their God-given potential.

If you'd like to support families who have children with special needs, please prayerfully consider a monthly recurring gift or send a one-time donation by check to:

Leap of Faith Learning
P.O. Box 3898

Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Donate online using the QR code or by going to:

www.leapoffaithlearning.org

Leap of Faith Learning
Believing in Every Child's Potential

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Cottonwood, AZ 86326

MATCHING GRANT

Leap of Faith Learning
Believing in Every Child's Potential

A New Matching Grant Opportunity

Would you consider giving the gift of hope?

Leap of Faith Learning received a pledge for a matching grant of \$10,000 through October 31st which provides a great opportunity to transform the lives of even more children and their families. If you consider donating today, your gift will be automatically doubled!

Leap of Faith Learning is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that is changing the trajectory of the lives of children with special needs and their families. We provide clarity to families who are struggling to identify and understand the learning challenges their children are dealing with through comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations. Unfortunately, these evaluations can cost over \$3,000 per student. In addition, advocacy, parent workshops, tutoring, therapies and other essential services are also costly. We have grown from 6 children to over 125 children

served in just 8 years, and we have received more than 20 new applications since the beginning of 2024.

Please consider sponsoring a child for just a one-time donation of \$3,000 or make a small recurring monthly donation of \$40/month which equates to \$1.35/day or \$480 for the entire year. The impact of \$1.35/day for these children is immeasurable!

These donors will have their names permanently inscribed on the Wall of Hope at LOFL.

For our children and their families, you will provide the hope of knowing they are never alone. Many of our families do not have a relationship with God and you will be pointing them to the only true hope...Jesus.



It's Easy!

It's easy to set up a recurring monthly donation online at
www.leapoffaithlearning.org
Or simply set up auto bill pay through your bank.

Leap of Faith Learning is a qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and donations are tax deductible as allowed by IRS regulations. (Federal Tax ID: 36-4781904)

What Our Parents Say

“

I am so thankful for these wonderful people. They helped my daughters by getting them evaluated and diagnosed. Through the diagnosis, my one daughter was able to qualify for a wonderful, new school. She has soared. I am so grateful. My other daughter has also received much help through Tia visiting her class and working with her teacher to better improve her focus. She is also grateful for tutoring.

Julie

“

I am humbled by the kind and generous support my daughter and I have received from Leap of Faith Learning. Their generosity has made access to support that Faith needs possible for us. I am a single parent on a budget. I am exceedingly grateful for their help.

Leslie

Thank you for your generosity!!!!