

Spring 2025

Leap of Faith Learning

Believing in Every Child's Potential

Relationship is Everything

A Message from the
Executive Director

Understanding a Relationship with God

A relationship with God is characterized by love, trust, obedience, and communication with Him. It is essential for understanding our purpose and experiencing true fulfillment and a lasting joy. When asked what the greatest commandment is, "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" *Matthew 22:37-39*

Relationship is everything...first with God and then with each other.

The True Meaning of Love

Jesus defined love for us by saying, "Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends." *John 15:13*

Unfortunately, our world has so distorted the true meaning of love, it's no wonder we are desperately seeking to fill the hole in our hearts with everything but God. In my generation, during the Vietnam War, the phrase "make love, not war" was coined, suggesting love is the same as sex. Spoiler alert...it is not. Throughout the past few decades, there have been countless books written about self-love, suggesting that love is a self-centered, selfish activity. If those philosophies don't utterly destroy the true meaning of love,

how about the Subaru Love Challenge? The ad campaign slogan is "Love: It's what makes a Subaru a Subaru". Who knew? I would have said...engineers. So, it's not surprising that the U.S. Census Bureau reports there is 1 divorce in the U.S. every 30 seconds, which totals approximately 948,862 each year.

Agape Love

Agape love (God's love) is a choice to put another person's interest before our own. We are not truly capable of experiencing or expressing that type of love without God. We're called to love our enemies. Try that without God's help!

Love is a Choice

Eileen and I have been together for 42 years now. I know you're thinking that's easy for Eileen because "Ron is wickedly intelligent, disarmingly charming, incredibly humorous, and stunningly handsome." While I appreciate those thoughts, I'm sorry to burst your bubble, but I'm no grand prize. I often think she would be better off with a pet rock. Eileen chooses to love me each and every day as I choose to love her. We can only do that because we have a deep, intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Through God, we have weathered many storms including our own health issues, family tragedies, life and death medical concerns with our daughter, as well as her many learning challenges.

Why?

With the recent Easter celebration, we are reminded how passionately God is pursuing us to have a deep, intimate relationship with Him not just now but through eternity. Jesus not only spoke the words but showed us that no greater love can we have than to lay down our life for another. The "Prince of Preachers", Charles Spurgeon did a two-part sermon on the word "why" in "My God, My God why have you forsaken Me?" He went on to say we could spend the rest of our lives just studying that one word, "why" and still never grasp the depth of God's love for us. Jesus was forsaken on that cross so that we never have to be. Since the foundation of the world, God wanted one thing from us...to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. He knew we couldn't do that on our own so He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus told us, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." *John 14:6*

Stop and Turn

Are you tired of looking for love in all the wrong places? Perhaps today is the day when you're willing to stop and turn around and feel the warm embrace of your loving Father. If you want to discover how to experience God's love that is incomprehensible, please reach out to me, any of our LOFL staff or a trusted Christian friend. It's the most important decision you'll ever make...because Relationship is Everything!

Ron



What's New

Spring is definitely here and it makes me want to sing for all that the Lord is doing through LOFL! Check it out.

Spring Tutoring & Work Study

It's hard to believe another school year is coming to an end. Our students have been making progress in a variety of subjects as well as life skills and independent living strategies. Meanwhile, our four work study students are keeping our campus green and clean and learning important employment readiness skills.



Parent/Children's Bible Study

Our parents are meeting weekly on Monday nights where we are currently studying through Colossians. While parents are unpacking God's word in the Multipurpose room, the kids are having their own Bible study and play time next door in the tutoring center. How great it is to walk through the challenges of life with friends through a foundation in Scripture and prayer.

Vertical Marriage

It's finally here! We sent out registration forms to have couples and potential couples participate in a Vertical Marriage workshop over three Mondays in May. Parents will uncover God's "secret" to a deep and meaningful marriage. Topics will include The Elusive Secret, Fight like a Man, To Cheer & to Cherish, God in the Bedroom, and All In.

Acts 2 Fellowship

On April 1st, LOFL hosted another Acts 2 Fellowship dinner. What a wonderful time for our families to enjoy a delicious meal and a meaningful time of fellowship. We were led through beautiful worship songs by Pastor Thomas and Bailey. Steven Moore, the youth leader at Calvary Harvest, shared his powerful testimony and a biblical message from the Book of James. Check out the photos on the next page. God is so good!



Art Program

Our kids are loving our new monthly art program. Last month, the group did a project on symmetry and the life cycle of a butterfly that focused on 2 Cor 5:17, **"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new."** Isn't that exciting? Keep a look out for emails about upcoming dates!

Moms' Walking by Faith Group

This group of moms meet on the second Tuesday of each month to go for a walk, share a devotional message and support each other through life's challenges. It's a casual and fun atmosphere filled with love and support.

Dads' Breakfast

Not to be outdone by the women, our dads are pulling together a monthly men's breakfast to encourage each other in becoming the husbands and dads God meant them to be. While details are unfolding, it is certain that bacon and sausage will be included. Watch for more details to come!



Acts 2 Fellowship

Family | Fellowship | Faith



Thank You to All Who Minister to Our Families

Hero Donors:

- William & Joanne Blatt
- Scott & Marilyn Bradley
- Ray & Terri Finch
- Brian & Kristy Herman
- Precision Structural Concrete
- Richard Orr
- Rock & Jetta Meyer
- Oxendale Auto Group
- Rod & Joan Rawlins
- Chris & Kim Rice
- Mark & Karen Vachon

Champion Donors:

- Henry & Ruby Brown
- Calvary Harvest Church
- Christ's Church of Flagstaff
- Ann Crisler
- "Faith the size of a mustard seed"
- Mathew 17:20 (anonymous)
- Brad & Tawnia Funk
- Burt & Joyce Gerlach

- Ryan & Deanna Harrison
- Kenneth & Christine Herman
- Paul & Debbie Holden
- Hoppy & Judy Hopkins
- Rich & Sandy Johnson
- Jodie Johnson (In Loving Memory)
- "But blessed are your eyes, because they see..."
- Matthew 13:16 (anonymous)
- Joni and Friends
- Pat & Laura Ladeau
- 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
- Matthew Oxendale
- Pam Oxendale (In Loving Memory)
- Joy Elizabeth Prats (In Memory Of)
- Rawlins Family
- Daniel & Sharon Rawlins
- Dennis & Karen Richards
- Rosemary Salinas
- Don & Grace Scheid
- Robert & Suzie Smith
- Jeff & Lori Strayer
- Jim & Lori Talley
- Paul Vachon & Family
- Erin Vachon-Vierra
- Ron & Eileen Vachon-Vierra
- Venture 1:9
- Arlene Vierra (In Memory Of)
- Gil & Ruth Vierra
- Ken Vierra & Nikita

- The Joseph Voorheis Family
- Wayside Bible Chapel
- The Willoughby Family
- Marcella Yates (In Honor Of)

Friend/Supporter Donors:

- Anna Arneson
- Aaron & Clara Arneson
- Joe & Susan Artzer
- John & Rachel Capite
- Charity Aid Foundation America
- Misty Cox & Jason Fornara
- Denise Cesare
- Rick & Dion Cozens
- Jerry & Jo Ann Crayser
- Rick & Linda Crosby
- Coco Cuddver
- Sarah Daly
- Bryan & Kim Dodd
- Jeff & Debbie Drayton
- Duane DuPont & Linda Buist

- Rod Foos
- Glendale Community College Police
- Randy & Dawn Gould
- Gary & Barbara Gullone
- Steve & Rita Horten
- Kaelynn & Rylee
- Paul & Kariina Kelson
- Kroger
- Ivan & Regina Kuipers
- Bob Lindsey (In Loving Memory)
- Sue & Roy List
- Norma Misewicz
- Stephen & Kelly Murdock
- Charles Myers
- Andrew & Monica Olesky
- Lowell & Sharon Penz
- Kathy Philippi
- Roger Pollack
- Tim & Jenni Rathsmann
- Philip Rawlins (In Memory Of)
- Danita Rios

- Rise Learning Academy (Verde Valley Learning Academy)
- Harry Rogers
- Mary Rogers (In Memory Of)
- Dan & Margie Stephens
- Pat & Bethany Sullivan
- Josh Sutter
- Randy & Alice Sutter
- Constance Tinkam
- Chuck & Pam Torrance
- Thrivent Financial
- Kathleen & Jay Tobin
- 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 spring 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 4 years old, we know we may be serving some families for nearly 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

- ☎ 928-963-0748
- ✉ rvierra@leapoffaithlearning.com
- 🌐 www.leapoffaithlearning.com
- 📍 P.O. Box 3898
Cottonwood, AZ 86326