

Spring 2026

# Leap of Faith Learning

*Believing in Every Child's Potential*

## Discipleship Begins at Home



A Message from the  
Executive Director

**As a parent, there is no greater gift we can give our children than to give them a GPS (God's Positioning System) that will lead them through every trial, medical issue, trauma and daily ups and downs into a life of meaning, authenticity, and abundant joy.**

It was so important that Jesus left us with that final command known as the Great Commission.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

*Matthew 28:19-20*

### Frightening Statistics

Jesus didn't say, lead people in a “sinner's prayer” but rather “make disciples and teach them all I have commanded”. The entire LOFL team just returned from a national discipleship conference and it inspired us to be bolder in joining God in His work and to set parents and children free from the empty promises of the lost world we live in. The most frightening statistic I heard was that only 1% percent of self-described Christians say they have led one other person to Christ.

That's incredibly sad because if you have children, we couldn't have a better opportunity to have an immediate impact as well as an eternal impact on another person. Discipleship begins at home!

### Attractional vs. Disciple Making

I think we, as the Church, have moved away from the God-given and intimate process of disciple-making and adopted an

“attractional” model to lure people to the church with great programs and activities.

As an elder of a church, I was just as guilty. While our corporate Sunday services, small group Bible studies and youth programs are critical for equipping the saints, these were never intended to replace one-on-one discipleship. Our goal is not to get people to say a “sinner's prayer,” but rather to do life-on-life discipleship to create transformed, born-again believers who are on fire to go and make disciples. Actually, the sinner's prayer is a 20th century invention made popular by evangelists like D. L. Moody and Billy Graham.

Unfortunately, this method cheapens the process Jesus gave us because it lacks a biblical foundation and can lead to a superficial understanding of salvation and false conversions.

### Two Steps of the Same Process

Evangelism and discipleship are not two unique processes but rather the same relational tool that we are commanded to use. The biblical process is to disciple people to salvation (go and make disciples) and once they are born-again, baptize them (baptizing them) and disciple them to maturity in Christ (teaching them all I commanded you). For us parents, we have a captive audience...our children.

Although I always believed Jesus was exactly who He said He was since I was 5 years of age, I wouldn't become a born-again follower of Jesus until I experienced a life-threatening illness at age 40. After that experience, I sought out a mature disciple-maker. That relationship changed everything...first with Jesus and then with a brother in Christ.

### Real Transformation

After that transformation, I was able to truly disciple my wife, my daughter, and people I was called to shepherd at my church. As parents, we can't give what we don't possess. Personally, I think every Christian should seek out at least one person to disciple them and one person to disciple. Life-on-life discipleship is where real transformation takes place...but oh how scary that is. It requires us to be transparent, vulnerable, and give permission to another to hold us accountable.

The fact is, we were designed to be interdependent (*1 Corinthians 12:20-21*), carry each other's burdens (*Galatians 6:2*) and screen life through the lens of Scripture (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*). To truly disciple another person, is an intense commitment by both parties and can last 1-3 years or longer. Jesus was with His disciples for 3 years and we know they were mostly slow learners.

### Truth-Seeking Generation

Here's the good news for our children. Gen Zers are attending church in greater numbers than any previous generation. They are attending church nearly twice a month looking for the answers and authenticity they didn't find in the distorted worldview of post-modern society.

LOFL is here to help you seize this opportunity to make disciples of this Truth-seeking generation. Find a church that is not only making disciples but making disciple makers. We are here to help you because we've walked in your shoes and know that discipleship begins at home!

*Ron*



## What's New

### Fun LOFL Activities

On the 3rd Friday of each month this spring, our Arts and Crafts class has been meeting and engaging in fun, biblical activities. Families have made homemade window clings, flower paintings on canvases, and decouping a cross for Easter. At our next Arts and Crafts class, we will be making decorative bird houses out of recycled cardboard and clay birds. This summer, we will be doing alternating Friday classes each month between Arts and Crafts and Game Days. Interested in coming? Keep an eye out for the emails and be sure to sign up!



### Church Trainings

The LOFL staff have been busy bees this spring, training numerous churches in special ministry. In February, we met with Parkside Community Church staff and gave them an introductory training on special ministry. In March, Ron took the pulpit and delivered three messages and trainings on **Mark 2:1-12** for the entire congregation at Calvary Chapel Camp Verde. Praise the Lord! The staff closed out March with a large group training at Solid Rock Christian Fellowship in Prescott. More and more churches are reaching out and seeking information and training in special ministry. It warms our hearts to see what God is doing through LOFL to support our families and getting them supported at church.

### Discipleship Conference

The LOFL staff was blessed with the opportunity to attend the 2026 National Disciple Making Forum in Houston, Texas. The theme, "Own the Mission," is based on the Great Commission (**Mat. 28:16-20**). This event hosted by [DISCIPLESHIP.ORG](http://DISCIPLESHIP.ORG), included a dozen featured speakers and

more than 50 breakout sessions designed to help churches/ministries create disciple-making cultures and equipping individuals to be everyday disciple-makers.



### LOFCA Update

It's official! Leap of Faith Christian Academy is finally incorporated. We have been having a lovely time meeting with children and youth pastors and ministry leaders of more than a dozen churches and Christian schools. God is orchestrating these interactions, and we are grateful to be developing relationships and building partnerships. Please keep praying that God's will be done as we continue to move forward with LOFCA. See page 3 for more details.

### Mom's Walk by Faith Group

Our moms have enjoyed sharing time together and diving into a devotional to support each other. **Psalm 27:14** – "Waiting on the Lord" and being strong and courageous and trusting in Him was so applicable to everyone's life. They enjoyed a Taco Tuesday Night and a Park Day with the kids catching up with old friends and developing new friendships.



### Dad & Sons' Breakfast

On May 16th, we had dads and sons join us to discuss God's Plan for Fathers and Sons. Russel was our master cook and grilled up large helpings of eggs, sausage and French toast sticks. Everyone was well-fed physically and spiritually. The message was "Relationship is Everything," first with God and then with each other.



### Acts 2 Fellowship Dinner

On May 5th, we hosted our Acts 2 Fellowship Dinner. We had an amazing turnout with more than 80 people in attendance. That's a new record, praise God! While children hooted and hollered around the clubhouse, families enjoyed delicious Mexican food made by our phenomenal volunteers and had their spirits lifted with lovely worship music by Pastor Thomas and his wife Bailey from Calvary Harvest Cottonwood. Zach Kibby with Younglife gave a heartfelt message on **Matthew 11:28-30** on how we should seek the Lord to help us with all of life's "stuff" and to find rest for our souls in Christ. Taco 'bout a good time!



# Coming Soon!

## The Need

For over 10 years, Leap of Faith Learning (LOFL) has been transforming lives by providing critical services and ministering to families with children with special needs. Unfortunately, many children are still falling through the cracks. Because of their needs, some students have to attend public school when many parents would rather send their children to a Christian school. Since many Christian schools are not equipped to handle these children, it has become clear we need to provide another option for these children. In response, we are launching Leap of Faith Christian Academy (LOFCA) to meet the needs of these wonderful families. For many, this is simply an extension of what we have been doing for 10 years through LOFL. Now, through a continuum of education services and ministry offered by both LOFL & LOFCA, we can exponentially impact the lives of so many more children & their families.

## Mission

To partner with parents in providing a Christ-centered education that honors each student's unique learning style through continuous growth in biblical truth, wisdom, faith, and character.

## Vision

We want to create a loving community where all children, regardless of how they learn, can come to know Jesus, serve Him, honor Him, and make Him known.



## Core Values

**Partner with Parents:** We know that parents are responsible to train up their children in the way they should go and lead them into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Purpose:** We are created by God for an amazing purpose; to love, serve, enjoy and glorify Him forever and to love and serve each other.

**Truth:** We will relentlessly pursue the truth as defined in God's word and apply it in all areas of our lives.

**Wisdom:** We will seek knowledge and wisdom from God which will provide us with the critical thinking skills and reasoning to handle any problem that confronts us.

**Growth:** We equip students to engage in lifelong growth in faith, knowledge, wisdom, service, and love.

## Interest Survey

**Do you have a school-aged child with special needs?**

If you have a child with special needs and have been longing to send him/her to a Christian school to be immersed in a biblical worldview and receive the extra support he/she needs, perhaps Leap of Faith Christian Academy (LOFCA) is the answer you've been praying for. LOFCA will be a covenantal Christian school offering a special education classical curriculum with all the appropriate supports to help your child grow into their God-given potential.

**Please take a few minutes to complete our online survey by clicking on the QR code.**



For more information about the school, please email us at: [info@leapoffaithlearning.org](mailto:info@leapoffaithlearning.org)



**Please pass this on to any parents with children with special needs!**

# Thank You to All Who Minister to Our Families

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- Jodie Johnson (In Loving Memory)
- "But blessed are your eyes, because they see..." Matthew 13:16 (anonymous)
- Joni and Friends
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- Miller Valley Baptist Member
- And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and

- Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- John 17:3
- "More of Him, Less of me" John 3:30 (anonymous)
- Charles Myers
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- The Yarger Family
- Maria Yavicoli

## A New Way to Give Hope to Kids with Special Needs!

Through Edward Jones, our ministry partners can now donate stocks or mutual funds for a smart and simple way to give. You can bring hope to children and families while receiving an income tax deduction for the fair market value and avoiding capital gains tax at transfer. To explore this avenue of support, providing hope for families and kids with special needs,

**Please contact Ron at: 928-963-0748 or [ron@leapoffaithlearning.org](mailto:ron@leapoffaithlearning.org)**



If you'd like to transform the life of a child with special needs and their entire family in a more traditional way, please prayerfully consider a monthly recurring gift online by using this QR code or going to [www.leapoffaithlearning.org](http://www.leapoffaithlearning.org) and clicking on the Donate Now icon.

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**Leap of Faith Learning**  
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