



BELIEVING THE BEST

1 Corinthians 13:4-7
Pastor Scott Slayback
September 1, 2024

How can we walk hand in hand when we don't see eye to eye?

Believe the best of each other and give each other the benefit of the doubt.

"It would be better to be deceived a hundred times, than to live a life of suspicion"
- Charles Spurgeon

What does a love look like that believes the best?

1. This love is _____ filling in the _____ with the _____

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." - Scottish Pastor Ian Maclaren

2. This love is not _____ assuming it does not know all the _____

*"Pray, don't find fault with the man that limps, or stumbles along the road.
Unless you have worn the moccasins, he wears, or stumbled beneath the same load."*
- From poem, *Judge Softly*, by preacher and suffragist Mary T. Lathrap (1895)

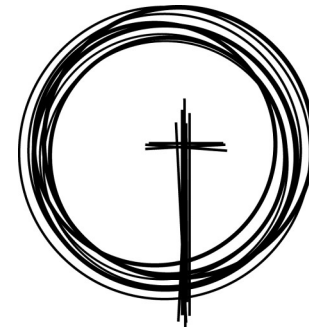
3. This love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices with the _____ assuming

we have a _____ in common if we _____ for it

How do we grow such a love that believes the best?

Only when we are _____ like this, can we _____ like this.

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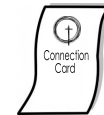


WELCOME TO

LifeSpring

Covenant Church

We are so glad you've chosen to visit LifeSpring today!
Feel free to reach out to our Pastor of Connections & Formation for more info
about our church. Elyse Aguirre: elysea@lifespringchurch.org



If you're new, whether in person or online, please fill out a Connection Card at the
Welcome Center or fill it out online (www.lifespringchurch.org/im-new) to let us
know you're here! This just gives us a chance to say hi and welcome you here.



If you would like to give an offering today to support the ministries of the church,
there are offering boxes in the lobby and back of the sanctuary. You can also scan
the QR code and give online or go to our website and click GIVE.
Venmo is another option: @LifeSpringCovChurch Thank you!



We invite you to check in your kids in the Children's Ministry area at the south end
of the building. Check in before service. Nursery age kids can be dropped off anytime;
elementary age kids will join us in service for music and will be dismissed before the
sermon to head to crew252.

BABIES, KIDS, STUDENTS

Sundays: Nursery & Children's Programming

Please check in your kids before service at the south end. Drop off to nursery anytime; grades K-5 will begin with us in service then be dismissed before the sermon.

Youth Group

Wednesday nights are back! FUSION (grades 6-8) is 6:30-8:00, and PULSE (grades 9-12) is 7:00-9:00. Enter through the south doors. Find the youth calendar on the website (www.LifeSpringChurch.org) under Connect > Students to see what's coming up! For text updates, text @lifespri to 81010.

THE AFTER PARTY

Many of us get anxious thinking about this upcoming election. We fear the taking of sides, losing contact with family and friends due to political differences, becoming exhausted and overwhelmed. Regardless of where you find yourself on the spectrum, we should all be asking, "How can we be Christlike in the chaos and craziness of our political climate?" Join us this fall for a 6-week class answering this question using The After Party Curriculum. Sign up in the Connecting Center or by e-mailing the facilitator:

Sunday Mornings: Adult Growth Class facilitated by Julie Slayback (sjslayback@aol.com)
9/8 - 10/13 in crew252, **8:30-9:45** *please note the earlier start time

Monday Evenings: 9/9 - 10/14
Women, facilitated by Julie Slayback (sign up with Women's Bible & Book Studies)
Men, facilitated by Brent Bromstrup (bbromstrup@gmail.com)

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

John & Suzanne Hatton – Wycliffe Bible Translators (Berthoud, CO)

John and Suzanne's ministry is focused on addressing worldwide Bible and learning poverty. As a software engineer, John has developed a free program and website being used to address the need for educational and Bible resources for the 43% of children in low and middle-income countries who have no access to education in their own language. Suzanne is a literacy specialist and is also responsible for maintaining the website- www.bloomlibrary.org. Lower tech communities around the world use the Bloom program and website to create and distribute the books that they have translated into their local languages. The Bloom library currently includes books in 500+ languages.

Prayer request: Pray for Suzanne as she begins her studies at CCU toward a master's in counseling.

Fun fact: If John were not working as a software engineer, his dream job would be groundskeeper for the Denver Broncos.

LIFE TOGETHER

Gaza Relief

Three weeks ago, Pastor Scott encouraged us as followers of Jesus to use our wealth to display the compassionate heart of Jesus to hurting people near and far. He challenged us to give to help the starving, suffering, and war-torn people in Gaza. You have given an astonishing \$9,000, and the church will match the first \$5,000 for a current total of \$14,000 to Covenant World Relief. Thank you for putting the compassionate heart of Jesus on display through your generosity!

Today is the last day to give before we send off a check. If you'd like to contribute, feel free to give online and check the Gaza Relief box or clearly mark your check Gaza Relief.

Opportunities for Women: Bible and Book Studies

It's about time for hot apple cider, football, falling leaves, and... Bible and book studies for women! We have groups meeting throughout the week, starting in September.

The After Party, Monday evenings | *Now and Not Yet*, Tuesday evenings
Ruth: Loss, Love, & Legacy, Wednesday mornings or Thursday evenings

You can sign up for a study online (lifespringchurch.org/women). Books are available for purchase in the church office. Scholarships are available. Questions? Contact the church office.

Alpha

Is there more to life than this? Why and how do I pray? Does God heal today? Alpha looks at these and other questions through a series of interactive sessions that provide an introduction to the Christian faith in an informal, fun and friendly environment.

LifeSpring's next Alpha class will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm at the church from September 11th until November 20th, with an all day retreat on Saturday, October 26th. Each Wednesday will begin with a meal, followed by a video session, and will close with a discussion.

We'd love to have you join us! Email Pastor Elyse or visit lifespringchurch.org/alpha to sign up. If you would like to help contribute towards one of the Alpha dinners, visit the sign up page.

LifeSpring Game Group

We had so much fun at this summer affinity group that we're extending it into the rest of the year! Come meet with other game-loving LifeSpringers - we won't judge if your competitive side comes out. Whether you played Monopoly once as a kid, or you're up to date on the latest Euro games, all are welcome! Bring your favorite game to play or come ready to learn.

We play in the Connecting Center from 2pm-6pm (drop-in/out is OK) on the 2nd Saturday of each month - our first meeting is September 14th. Childcare is provided; if you're bringing kids please RSVP by September 11th. To help with the cost of snacks and sitters, we suggest a \$10 donation per family, and/or bring a snack to share! Questions or RSVP - Luke Heidbrink: (949) 943-4378

PreService Prayer

Beginning September 8th, the preservice prayer group will meet 8:00-8:25. Anyone and everyone is invited to come pray for Sunday morning and for the greater church around the world.

Tonight: Faith at the Foundry worship night

Faith at the Foundry is gathering one last time for the season. If you'd like to attend tonight and would like to find other LifeSpringers, text Donna Warren (970-232-6168) who would love to look for you and gather LifeSpring friends together. 6:00-7:30pm. Info: faithatthefoundry.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

LifeSpring Book Club

Do you enjoy reading? The camaraderie of other women? Then please consider attending the first meeting of the season on Sunday, September 8th when we'll discuss Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson. We meet at noon at Julie Slayback's home. Questions? Please contact Julie.

Sept 13 | Crescendo Fall Gathering at Top of the Lake Coffee Shop

Come join us 9:30-11:00 as we hear from Gus Aguirre about the Top of the Lake coffee business- from the farmers in Guatemala, to roasting the beans, to providing an amazing tasting coffee!

Coffee and tea will be available to purchase and we will provide sweet treats. The address is 815 14th St. SW B100, adjacent to Grimm Brothers in the old HP building. Signup in the Connecting Center.

September 19 | ROMEO

Retired Old Men Eating Ot will be meeting the third Thursday in September at 8:30 am. This will be the return of our regular breakfast; eggs, bacon, hash browns, toast, OJ and coffee; maybe some mini muffins. Hope you can make it. Invite a friend.

September 22 | Carnival on the Corner!

drum roll please... THE PARTY OF THE YEAR IS COMING!! We are so excited to once again partner with Sarah Milner Elementary School next door and throw a big fall celebration for the whole neighborhood.

Carnival on the Corner flows from Loch Lon park into the school lot, takes over Jocelyn Drive, and keeps going into the church's south lot/ playground. There's a car show, there are lots of carnival games, prizes, music, a cookie walk, a spread of carnival food, and multiple inflatable activities!

This is an all-hands-on-deck event. We get the privilege and opportunity to truly be the hands and feet of Jesus, helping prepare and put on a party that we pray communicates joy, light, love, and acceptance to our neighbors.

Sign ups are open. We need volunteers set up team, food makers and servers, inflatables monitors, trash patrols, face stencilers, and a clean up crew. We are also asking for a number of food donations, from hot dogs to cookies to cheese to waffle cones!

You can find the sign ups online (www.lifespringchurch.org/carnival) or every Sunday there will be a table in the Connecting Center.

The office will be closed tomorrow for Labor Day.



RELATIONAL COVENANT

- Holy Manners for a Faith Community -

How will we walk hand in hand when we don't see eye to eye?

As the people of LifeSpring Covenant Church we commit to the following ways of working together:

Charitable Love

- Believe the best of each other and give each other the benefit of the doubt. (*Phil 4:8-10*)
- Respect and honor the leadership of the church. (*1 Thes. 5:12, Hebrews 13:1*)
- Seek to discover what is best for our church as a whole, not what may be best for us or for some small group in the church. (*Phil. 2:3-6*)

Tough Love

- Accept disagreement, conflict, and evaluation as normal and natural. (*Phil. 4:2-3*)
- Seek to communicate clearly, humbly, and directly with the person with whom you have a concern. (*Col. 3:14-16, Mat. 18*)

Redeeming Love

- Forgiveness is a mark of Christ among us; as forgiven people, we will reject bitterness and instead choose to forgive one another. (*Ephesians 4:32*)

As we at LifeSpring Covenant Church commit to this covenant, we will seek to be a body unified in prayer and submission to the Holy Spirit.