



Watersprings  
CHURCH

# Living WATER

JULY 2026



## Love-Centered Theology

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# Love-Centered Theology

by Pastor Ty Orr

## DEFINING OUR TERMS: *THEOLOGY*

If we are to have a coherent conversation about a *Love-Centered Theology* and its impact on transformational preaching, we should start by defining some terms. Let's start with *theology*. By the second century, both Greek and Latin transliterations of the word were understood in the Christian context to mean "teaching *about God*."<sup>1</sup> Not surprisingly, this is still widely misunderstood in the Church today and is seen as something only the pastor needs to worry about, and for some, they consider themselves *too spiritual*, or "spirit-led," to worry about such lofty things.

Over the years, however, theology moved deeply into the academic sciences, alienating many, and has become a discipline of professional and ministerial studies.<sup>2</sup> In these scholastic studies, theology is often divided into subdisciplines such as "systematic, biblical, historical, practical (or pastoral),<sup>3</sup> philosophical, moral, natural, spiritual, and liturgical."<sup>4</sup> But theology may also be described in *contextual* terms. Being aligned with a principal tradition such as "Reformed, Wesleyan, Arminian, liberal, Roman Catholic, or Eastern Orthodox theology."<sup>5</sup> Of course, we should not leave out the schools of covenantal and dispensational theology, either. A lot to think about and worth a humble lifetime of study.

Overwhelming information like this makes this conversation about theology problematic, to say the least. Because *theology* and *love* have broad, cultural, and contextual definitions, we will need to focus on their definitions for this study. I am deeply indebted to Dr. Gerry Breshears, who helped redirect my view of theology,<sup>6</sup> moving away from simply gathering or knowing *accurate* information about God to seeing theology as a growing relationship with God, deepening one's knowledge of Him as one made in His image for partnership.<sup>7</sup> Our studies, no matter how rigorous, must remain *devotional*.

If, therefore, theology is a relational study of the Christian experience of God, grounded in God's divine and natural self-revelation and love for His creation,<sup>8</sup> then I would suggest that any work of theology is the *intentional devotional exploration of relational revelation*. The outcome of this must be loyalty to God that comes through Gospel Transformation. But it is important to note, especially in the context of the subject at hand, that diligently seeking to *know our Creator* and His love for us must be done without abandoning sound knowledge, which is paramount to healthy orthodoxy and orthopraxy, as well as a faithful and fruitful service to our God and the community of faith.

Occasionally, we need to slow down and consider the ramifications of being loved by a *holy* God, seeking to move from information to relational revelation in order to know the God of love.

Knowing God and being known by Him, but also knowing ourselves, should be the evident fruits of our studies. Jesus said, **"And this is eternal life, that they**

<sup>1</sup>D. F. Wright, "Theology," in *New Dictionary of Theology: Historical and Systematic*, ed. Martin Davie et al. (London; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press; InterVarsity Press, 2016), 903.

<sup>2</sup>"Theology," in *Dictionary of Christianity in America* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990).

<sup>3</sup>This is where this study will undoubtedly land in the overall family of theological ideas due to its practical nature and application to the local Church.

<sup>4,5</sup>"Theology," in *Dictionary of Christianity in America*

<sup>6</sup>I would say at this point it was more of a correction of an immature view due to lack of instruction.

<sup>7</sup>Dr. Gerry Breshears, notes from MA studies at Western Seminary and conversations with Gerry.

<sup>8</sup>Stanley Grenz, David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling, *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1999), 113.

[God's loyal disciples] may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3) Jeremiah writes, "Thus says the LORD: 'Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the LORD." (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Therefore, our studies should help us understand God's love as we delight in Him. We must remember that all sin is incompatible with His nature and therefore calls for personal change through Gospel Transformation. Theology as *relational revelation* helps us remove any roadblocks and blinders that keep us from seeing ourselves as we truly are, in light of His perfection. This enables fruitful repentance.

### DEFINING OUR TERMS: BIBLICAL LOVE (AGAPÉ)

If we are willing to consider theology as the intentional, devotional exploration of relational revelation, then love would be the central catalyst not only for our devotion to God but also for our relationship with God and others, thus *making love the centerpiece of our personal and corporate theology*. But what do we mean by "love?" Well, it is "more than a feeling" (if you hear the song in your head, you're welcome). The most common New Testament word we use in the Church today is "agapé," which throughout Church history has referred to the Lord's divine love. This kind of love is understood as the definitive fruit of the Spirit in the New Testament.<sup>9</sup> As Ernest DeWitt Burton, a New Testament scholar, suggests, Paul places agapé as "the source from which all the rest flow."<sup>10</sup>

So, for the Apostle Paul, the fruit of the Spirit is not a list of nine separate fruits, but rather a single, unified fruit in which "agapé" serves as the foundational, primary attribute or source,<sup>11</sup> where all of these "fruits" (joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) flow from God's divine love. These are poured powerfully into the heart of believers by God the Spirit. The traits Paul lists are

seen as expressions of love working through God's indwelling Spirit and power in the believer (Galatians 5:22-23). Because, as Paul writes to the Corinthian Church, "**And now abide faith, hope, love, [agapé]; these three, but the greatest of these is love [agapé].**" (1 Corinthians 13:13)<sup>12</sup> Carson notes that "agapé" is viewed not only as God's gracious love for us but also as the way we are called to love one another (John 13:34-35). Through the Spirit given to us, the love of Christians is meant to reflect God's love in the world.<sup>13</sup> Amen to that!

At this point, it is important to note that Carson also warns against giving in to the "Greek love word groups" when seeking to understand or communicate biblical love.<sup>14</sup> This is something I have heard countless times in

<sup>9</sup> R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1992).

<sup>10</sup> Ernest DeWitt Burton, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*, International Critical Commentary (London: T&T Clark, 1988), 314.

<sup>11, 12</sup> R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*

<sup>13</sup> D. A. Carson, *Love in Hard Places* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002), 11.

<sup>14</sup> D. A. Carson, *Love in Hard Places* 12-13.

my ministry context. Anders Nygren famously grouped three loves: sexual and erotic love, using ἔρως [erōs]; emotional love, or the love of friendship and feeling, with φιλέω [phileō] word-group; and willed love, the self-sacrificial commitment to the other's good, which he thought of as Christian love, and tied to the ἀγαπάω [agapaō] word-group.<sup>15</sup>

C. S. Lewis added to the conversation of Nygren in his work *The Four Loves*. Based on Greek vocabulary, available to him, he added the term στοργή [storgē] (for “affection,” especially among family members) and restricted the φιλία/φιλέω [phileō] word-group to friendships.<sup>16</sup> This is not to say there are not different kinds of love, for there are. Carson is denying that specific kinds of love can be *reliably tied* to specific Greek words.<sup>17</sup> He sees these groupings as an exegetical fallacy that warrants addressing.<sup>18</sup>

For example, the Bible has plenty to say about sexual love, yet it never uses the word ἔρως.<sup>19</sup> In the Septuagint, when Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar, the Greek text

indicates that he “loved” her, using the verb ἀγαπάω (LXX 2 Sam. 13:1, 4, 15).<sup>20</sup> Although moving away from these word groups may not be popular with some, Carson notes that an analytic distinction may be helpful, *provided* it is not tied to a particular Greek word group.<sup>21</sup>

R. C. Sproul notes that biblical love operates as an *active verb* rather than a passive emotion. (This is where most get it wrong.) For biblical love is a duty or obligation *we choose* to perform.<sup>22</sup> Sproul's definition represents a fundamental departure from contemporary culture, which typically treats love as something that happens to us involuntarily<sup>23</sup> (or we fall into). This definition moves far beyond the sentimental understanding common in contemporary culture, which often treats love merely as an emotion, the very thing that is getting so many in trouble today. Still, as *emotionally charged* as this debate can be, love, in and of itself, is *not a feeling*. It is a *covenant choice* to be faithful. This choice is often inconvenient and uncomfortable to our flesh.

<sup>15</sup> Anders Nygren, *Agape and Eros* (New York: Harper and Row, 1969).

<sup>16</sup> D. A. Carson, 13-14.

<sup>17</sup> D. A. Carson, 13.

<sup>18</sup> D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996), 31-32, 51-53.

<sup>19,20</sup> D. A. Carson, *Love in Hard Places* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002), 13.

<sup>21</sup> D. A. Carson, 14.

<sup>22,23</sup> R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1992).



# Coffee with the Pastor

JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> • 1 PM  
HOMESTEAD

REGISTER @ [WATERSPRINGS.NET](http://WATERSPRINGS.NET)

# MISSIONS EMPHASIS WEEKEND JULY 11&12

by Pastor Dave Coleman

One of the great privileges of being part of the body of Christ is partnering together in the work of the Gospel—not only here in Idaho Falls, but around the world. On the weekend of July 11 & 12, Watersprings Church will host our annual Missions Emphasis Weekend, hosted by Watersprings Missions Pastor Shane McCurry. This special weekend will give us the opportunity to hear firsthand how God is moving through three very different ministries, each united by a common purpose: proclaiming Jesus Christ and making disciples.

First, we will hear from **Dr. Tim and Sherry Rupp, founders of The Strong Blue Line ministry.** Many at Watersprings know Pastor Tim as one of our Assistant Pastors, but his ministry reaches far beyond our church walls. A retired San Antonio Police Department homicide detective and 24-year law enforcement veteran, Tim and Sherry travel across the country ministering to police officers, chaplains, and their families. Through seminars, retreats, books, and personal encouragement, The Strong Blue Line seeks to strengthen those who serve on the front lines of public safety—helping officers thrive physically, mentally, and spiritually while sharing the hope of the Gospel. Tim's latest book, *The Magnum Killer*, is available in our Resource Center, along with several of his other titles.

We will also welcome home our own missionaries, **Brad and Haley Dick, who faithfully serve in Ozamiz City Region on the island of Mindanao, Philippines.**

Brad and Haley are home for a brief summer furlough as they prepare for an exciting new chapter—the arrival of their first child. While in Idaho Falls, Brad is serving on staff here at Watersprings before they return to the mission field. Their ministry in the Philippines continues to impact lives through evangelism, discipleship, and the teaching of God's Word. We look forward to hearing how the Lord is working through them and learning how we can continue to pray for and support their growing family.

Finally, we are honored to welcome back longtime friend and veteran missionary **Wes Bentley of Far Reaching Ministries.** For nearly three decades, Wes and his team have carried the Gospel into some of the most dangerous and difficult places on earth, particularly in South Sudan and other regions affected by war, persecution, and extreme poverty. Through humanitarian aid, church planting, discipleship, and the training of military chaplains, Far Reaching Ministries continues to bring both practical help and the hope of Christ to those suffering in some of the world's most challenging environments.

Please make plans to join us for this inspiring weekend. Come hear what God is doing through these ministries, be encouraged by their testimonies, and discover fresh opportunities to pray, support, and participate in the Great Commission.



**MISSIONS  
NIGHT! July 12 6pm Sanctuary**

**THE STRONG BLUE LINE**  
TIM & SHERRY RUPP

**FAR REACHING MINISTRIES**  
WES BENTLEY

**Watersprings MISSIONS & OUTREACH**  
BRAD & HALEY DICK

# The Hole in My Heart

by Melanie Verhoeven

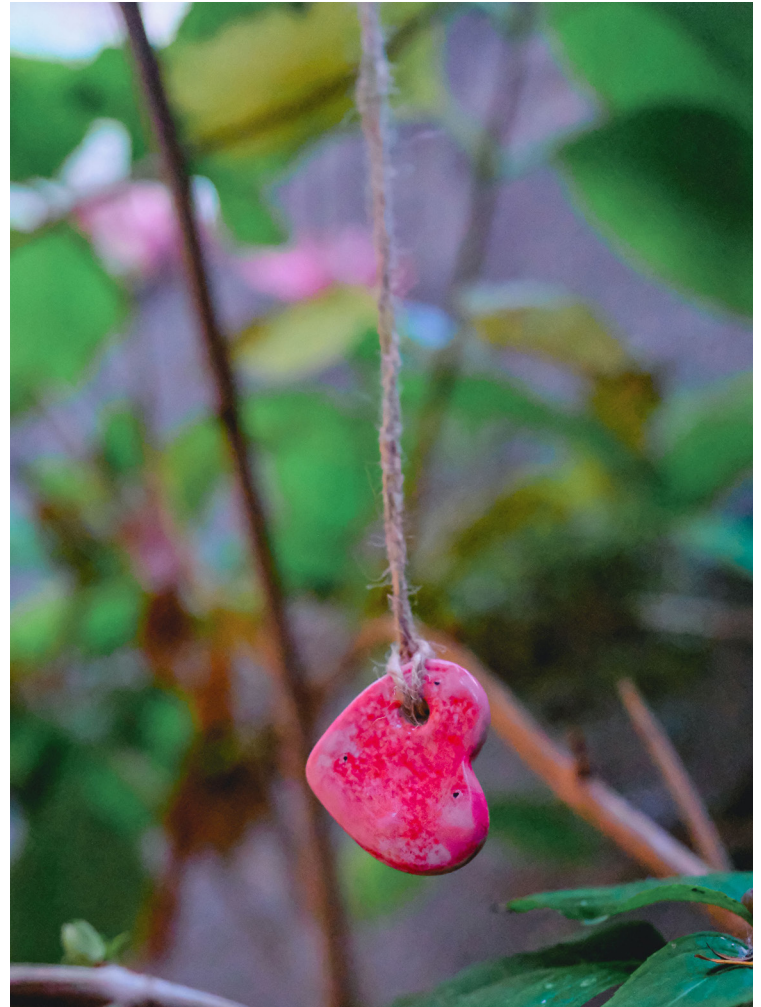
Why do I do the things the world sees as ridiculous? Why do I seek to humbly serve behind the scenes? What makes a difference?

I work for things not grasped by human hands. I toil for the things unseen. I seek out what pleases Him. What will bring Him glory. Not me.

Are you seeking praise from those around you? Are you seeking glory and fame in the here and now? Do you do things that you think will fill that empty spot that yearns to be filled?

If so, does it fill that empty spot? Does it overwhelm you with the sense of fulfillment? Are you full and joyful?

No? I didn't think so. I too, have tried to fill this spot with stuff, with things, with people, with emotions, with



work, with money. How about you? Have you tried to fill it? Is it full?

I finally have found the ONE and ONLY thing that fills up every bit of that hole. It is my Lord and Savior. When I yielded my right to Him, He came and filled it up. I found that I still 'do' the things that I once did, but there is a difference between 'why' and 'how'. I don't have to be everything that everyone wants me to be. I can be myself. I can be the person that God made me to be. I can be filled and full even when I am me.

Who wants to just be themselves? You too? When you are in Christ your being is His. He gave you your personality, your looks, you. If you were made to be you then why would you want to "be" anything other than yourself in Christ. When you have to "be" someone else

that hole inside is drained and becomes empty quickly. But when you are who you are in Christ and He has filled that hole with His love, His hope, His joy, then being you is right and full. Being you is, well, just perfect. Yes, being you is good. Being you is great.

That hole inside? Is it full of junk, and not fulfilling you? Well, maybe it's time to look beyond yourself. Look to the One who created you and this amazing Galaxy. He can and will fill that hole and give you reason to pursue greatness in Him.

*Balm 71: 14*

But I will hope  
continually,  
And will praise  
You yet more and  
more.

*Balm 145: 8*

The LORD is  
gracious and full  
of compassion,  
Slow to anger and  
great in mercy.



Ladies Ministry would like to invite you to join us in growing closer to the Lord in the next season of Ladies Night Out. We will begin on October 2nd with the first of many evenings that encourage growth in the Lord and fellowship of the saints. Be on the look out for more information!

But before Ladies Night Out we will be opening Cultivate with our next installment of classes. We will be digging into another part of scripture. You won't want to miss it on September 12th! Sign ups open soon!

# ALTAR CALL TRAINING

by Pastor Dave Coleman

One of the greatest privileges God gives His people is the opportunity to share the Gospel and help others take their first steps of faith in Jesus Christ. At Watersprings Church, we believe that every person who responds to a Gospel invitation deserves to be met with biblical truth, loving encouragement, and clear guidance toward a relationship with Christ.

That is why we are excited to offer our upcoming Altar Call Training, led by Pastor Paul Verhoeven.

While the message of the Gospel never changes, the methods we use to effectively communicate that life-changing message to people can and should be refined. Pastor Paul has been uniquely gifted and experienced in evangelistic ministry, and he brings a wealth of practical wisdom to this training. His heart is to equip believers to confidently and compassionately minister to those who are responding to the Lord's call.

This training is especially important because it helps ensure that everyone serving during altar ministry is communicating the same biblical truths and using consistent language when speaking with those who are making decisions for Christ. Whether someone responds during a weekend service, Church in the Park, a holiday outreach, or another special event, we want every individual to receive the same clear presentation of the Gospel and the same encouragement as they begin their journey of faith.

The Altar Call Training will be held on **SUNDAY, JULY 12 AND SUNDAY, JULY 19. AT 1:00PM.** Each session will last approximately one hour, and participants are expected to **ATTEND BOTH CLASSES.**

If you have a desire to share the Gospel, pray with others, and help lead people to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we invite you to join us. Using materials developed by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), this training will equip you with practical tools



for leading people to Christ, following up with new believers, and helping them take their first steps in discipleship.

Whether you have years of ministry experience or are simply willing to be used by God, this class will provide valuable training and encouragement. We hope you will prayerfully consider becoming part of this important ministry and helping us faithfully point people to Jesus Christ.

Register today at [Watersprings.net](http://Watersprings.net), or go to the Connect Center and sign up!

A promotional graphic for Altar Call Training. It features a person in a dark hoodie walking away from the viewer on a path through a forest at sunset. The hoodie has 'LOVE' printed on the back with 'up in out now' underneath. The text 'ALTAR CALL Training' is at the top, with 'ALTAR CALL' in large white letters and 'Training' in a cursive font. Below that, it says 'JULY 12TH' and '1:00pm'. A QR code is in the bottom left, and the text 'Register at watersprings.net' is in the bottom right.

**ALTAR CALL**  
*Training*

**JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**1:00pm**

**Register at [watersprings.net](http://watersprings.net)**

# REVIVE

by Ryan Fugh



# LOCK-IN

Hey Watersprings!

I am excited to announce that **REVIVE** is hosting an overnight lock-in on **JULY 24TH**. We'll meet at 7:00pm in the Youth Center for regular youth group and then roll into the overnighter at 9:00pm.

It's going to be an awesome night filled with games and fun. If you plan on getting some sleep then you're going to be disappointed, if you come planning on having a blast, well then you're on the right track.

Questions? Find me at [ryan@watersprings.net](mailto:ryan@watersprings.net) or after service.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
July 26 - July 31



**REGISTER OR VOLUNTEER!**  
[watersprings.net](http://watersprings.net)



# One Church, One Service, One Great Opportunity!

by Pastor Dave Coleman

Mark your calendars for one of the most anticipated weekends of the year at Watersprings Church—our annual *Church in the Park* on **Sunday, August 2, at 10 am** in beautiful **Freeman Park** in Idaho Falls!

Each year, two- to three-thousand people gather along the banks of the Snake River for this special outdoor service. Nestled near the Idaho State Vietnam Veterans Memorial and surrounded by the beauty of God's creation, Freeman Park provides a wonderful setting for our church family and community to come together for worship, fellowship, and the proclamation of the Gospel. The Idaho State Vietnam Veterans Memorial stands as a reminder of sacrifice, service, and freedom—values that point us to the even greater sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

Over the years, we've been blessed to see as many as 3,000 people attending Church in the Park. We encourage you to bring your lawn chairs, your Bible, and most importantly, your friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers. This is one of our greatest outreach opportunities of the year.

The morning will begin with vibrant, energetic worship at 10:00 AM, followed by a clear presentation of the Gospel from Pastor Ty. Every year we witness many people respond to the invitation to receive Christ, and our Altar Call Team will be ready to pray with and encourage those making decisions for Jesus.

One of the highlights of the day is the baptism celebration in the Snake River. Following the service, pastors and elders will baptize new believers as they publicly declare their faith in Christ. In recent years, we

have seen nearly **150 baptisms** during Church in the Park alone!

After the service and baptisms, everyone is invited to stay for a huge church family BBQ and potluck lunch. Our Men's Ministry will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for all who attend. We ask that everyone bring a side dish, chips, or dessert to share.

Please note that there will be **no Saturday evening service that weekend** as all of our efforts will be focused on this one unified outdoor gathering.

If you would like to serve as part of the Altar Call Team, please plan to attend the **Altar Call Training Classes on July 12 and July 19**. If you would like to help with set-up or clean-up, please stop by the Connect Center and sign up.

Church in the Park is more than a service—it is a celebration of what God is doing in our community. We look forward to worshipping with you on August 2!



The graphic features a purple background with white and yellow text. On the left, three icons in white boxes represent 'Bible' (a book with a cross), 'Baptism' (a person in water), and 'Barbecue' (hamburgers and hot dogs). The main text reads 'Watersprings Church' in small letters, followed by 'Church in the Park' in a large, stylized script font. Below this, it says 'FREEMAN PARK' in bold, uppercase letters. On the right side, 'AUG 2' is written vertically, and '10 AM' is written in a large, stylized font.

ready to jump in?

**Church  
in the Park**

# PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

July 19th  
1-3pm

register @ [watersprings.net](http://watersprings.net)



# VBS WISHLIST

**THANK  
YOU!**



**AMAZON LIST**



**ITEMS NEEDED**



**DONATE ITEMS ON OUR WISHLIST!  
AMAZON WILL SHIP DIRECTLY TO US OR  
DROP OFF ITEMS AT FRONT DESK**



# Come See What Makes Watersprings School Special



by Katheryn King, MS (Head of School)

As both a parent and grandparent, I know that few decisions are more important than choosing where your children will spend their formative years. Families want a school where their children will be known, loved, challenged academically, and encouraged to grow in their faith. As the Head of School, I have the privilege of seeing those things happen every day at Watersprings School.

Because we are committed to continuous improvement, we regularly survey our school community to better understand what we are doing well and where we can grow. At the conclusion of this school year, I asked our survey platform to summarize the feedback from our employees, students, and parents. As I reviewed the results, I was encouraged to see several consistent themes emerge.

## WHAT OUR EMPLOYEES ARE SAYING

Our employees consistently describe Watersprings School as a supportive and collaborative community where both students and staff are encouraged to grow and thrive. They value the dedication of their colleagues, the engaging curriculum, and the school's commitment to providing both academic and emotional support for students.

## WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING

Our students describe Watersprings School as a welcoming place where they feel safe, valued, and loved. They appreciate their teachers, enjoy meaningful learning experiences, and value opportunities for athletics, service projects, field trips, and spiritual growth. Many specifically mention the positive relationships they have with both staff and fellow students.

## WHAT OUR PARENTS ARE SAYING

Our parents consistently praise the nurturing, Christ-centered environment. They appreciate our dedicated teachers, small class sizes, strong biblical foundation, and the genuine care shown to their children each day. Parents often describe Watersprings School as a place where their children are known, loved, challenged, and encouraged to grow in their faith.

Whether you are looking for a school for your child or a place to serve alongside an incredible team, we would love to connect with you. To schedule a tour or begin the application process, please visit [waterspringschool.net](http://waterspringschool.net) or contact our school office at (208) 542-6250 for more information.

We would love the opportunity to welcome you into the Watersprings School family.



*A ministry of  
Watersprings Church*

*There's never been a better time  
to be a Watersprings Warrior!*

## CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION

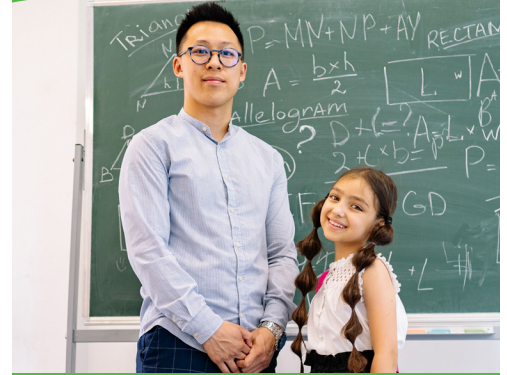


[waterspringschool.net](http://waterspringschool.net)

*Scan to learn more  
& enroll today!*



**Open enrollment is now underway, and we would be honored to partner with your family. Families can enroll children from Preschool (ages 2-4) through 12th grade.**



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**We are currently hiring for several positions!**

**Preschool and Elementary Aides**

**Kitchen Staff**

**Part-time Elementary PE Teacher**

**Part-time Middle School Art Teacher**

# Wonder



## WONDERFULLY MADE

Personal connection comes through honesty. The Psalmists understood this better than anyone. From the pages of the Psalms leap lament and joy, anger and mercy—honest cries to the God who hears us and knows us. During this series, your kids will discover more from the Psalms about the unchanging character of God—the loving, caring, faithful shepherd—and your identity as His kids, wonderfully and purposefully created.

**YOU CREATED THE DEEPEST PARTS OF MY BEING. YOU PUT ME TOGETHER INSIDE MY MOTHER'S BODY. HOW YOU MADE ME IS AMAZING AND WONDERFUL. I PRAISE YOU FOR THAT. WHAT YOU HAVE DONE IS WONDERFUL. I KNOW THAT VERY WELL.**  
—PSALM 139:13-14

### WORD OF WONDER

*\*How God made me is amazing and wonderful.*

—Psalm 139:14

\*Early Childhood

Train up the next generation!

Watersprings Church  
CHILDRENS MINISTRY

CHECK OUT  
the Children's Ministry  
Serving Opportunities

QR code



Infant - 5th grade

# CAMP WEDNESDAYS



At-Home Bible Story Video



Spotify playlist

## SERIES OVERVIEW

Bible Story	Bible Passage	Wonder Truth
I Am Fearfully and Wonderfully Made	Psalms 139	God Made Me on Purpose, for a Purpose
The Lord Is My Shepherd	Psalms 23	God Cares for Us
God's Word Is a Lamp to My Feet	Psalms 119	God Gives Us the Bible to Know Who He Is
God's Love Endures Forever	Psalms 103; 136	God's Love Is Faithful



## FAMILY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

- Write a Psalm:** The book of Psalms is filled with song poems to praise God. Give each person a paper and coloring utensils. Read Psalm 63 aloud as a family and invite each person to draw or write a picture or description of what they feel. You can write your own psalm or anything you want to say to God to praise Him.
- Imaginative Psalm 23:** Listen as one person reads Psalm 23. As you listen, use all of your senses to imagine that you're in the scene. What sounds do you hear? What does the grass (and sheep!) smell like? What does the water and grass feel like? What do you see? What do you feel as you walk through the dark valley or have oil poured on your head? What food would be at the table? Talk about it together and thank God for being our shepherd.

## FAMILY WONDER QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite worship song, and why?
2. When do you praise God?
3. Share about a Bible story or verse that has helped or encouraged you.



**“I  
should  
have  
killed  
you...”**

by Tim Rupp

It was a bright sunny day on May 13th, 2026, in Marion County, FL, when Deputy Robert Fitch was dispatched to a call of a suspicious person running out in traffic. These calls are common for law enforcement officers (LEOs). Most suspicious persons are harmless and turn out to be a door-to-door salesperson, a lost traveler, a homeless person asking for money, or a junkie strung out on drugs. As Deputy Fitch found out firsthand, that's not always the case.

The deputy slowly drove his marked white and green Ford Explorer through the area where the subject was reported to have been. It wasn't long before he spotted

a white male on the right side of the road, coming out of a wooded area. Deputy Fitch stopped his vehicle and got out to investigate. The suspect, who was on the opposite side of the patrol SUV, ducked, and went to the back of the vehicle. Deputy Fitch took a couple steps toward the back of the Explorer and called out, “Hey partner...hey buddy.” The suspect suddenly appeared from behind the SUV, with his left hand open and facing the deputy, apparently trying to distract the law officer. The subject's right hand, which held a knife, was concealed behind his body. The deputy stepped back as the suspect lunged toward him and started slashing at him with the knife. Fitch stumbled backward and fell on his back. The suspect pounced on the deputy and stabbed him repeatedly in the chest as the deputy fought back and pushed the assailant off. The assault was over in seconds, and the suspect fled on foot, back into the woods. Deputy Fitch, not fully realizing the suspect had stabbed him numerous times in his ballistic vest, jumped to his feet, drew his service pistol, and started searching for the suspect. Fitch notified the dispatcher and other deputies were dispatched. Minutes later, the suspect, still armed with the knife, was located and arrested, without incident.<sup>1</sup>

The suspect was identified as Heriberto Medina Marquez. While seated in the back of a patrol SUV, Marquez was caught on camera saying to Deputy Fitch, “I should have killed you..., you know that, right? I should have killed you. I should have stabbed you in the neck.” Court records show this wasn't the first time Marquez had attacked a deputy. In fact, he served jail time for assaulting a police officer, but this time he faces life in prison for attempted murder of a law enforcement officer. Deputy Fitch received only minor injuries to his forearms as he was fending off Marquez. A witness to the incident noted at how quickly the deputy was attacked.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.police1.com/body-camera/i-should-have-killed-you-man-ambushes-stabs-fla-deputy-multiple-times>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/who-is-heriberto-medina-marquez-suspect-accused-stabbing-deputy-had-history-attacking-law-enforcement>

Everyday across America, our LEOs make routine calls and never know when they will encounter someone who is bent on killing them. They live with this reality, as do their families. Perhaps this explains why many LEOs have a jaded outlook or come across as rude. They need our prayers, not our criticism. Thank God that Deputy Fitch's vest protected him from being murdered.

## BRINGING HOPE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Winning a Gunfight

Second Edition



The SBLF—at no cost to officers or their agencies—brings hope to LEOs with training seminars that help them navigate a myriad of issues they deal with. One way we do this is by training chaplains. In the “Winning a Gunfight” seminar and book, officers learn how to win a gunfight tactically, mentally, and ethically—or body, soul, and spirit. As important as it is to *survive* a gunfight,

*winning* is much more important. Winning means you come out of a gunfight as a victor. Winning is having a holistic victory. It goes beyond a tactical victory. It also means being victorious mentally and ethically. It's complete victory—body, soul, and spirit. Please partner with us to make strong officers with strong relationships by giving them real hope for complete victory! To help, go to [TheStrongBlueLine.org](http://TheStrongBlueLine.org) and click the “Donate” button.



## ON THE ROAD

We're in Spokane, WA this month teaching chaplains at the International Conference of Police Chaplains' Annual Training Seminar. We were asked to teach courses on Crime Scene Protocol, PTSD, and Moral Injury.

Pray for your police!

# THE REV

HIS MUSIC • HIS WORD

88.7 • 90.1 • 90.3

## TUNE-IN

Weekdays 9am & 5pm

Podcast drops at 10am

Find us at these stations!  
88.7 • 90.1 • 90.3



# MENS MINISTRY



# MAN CAMP

## *Walk Like a Man*

by Pastor Dave Coleman

Men, it's time to get away from the noise, leave the distractions behind, and spend a weekend investing in what matters most—your walk with Christ, your relationships with other godly men, and your calling as a man of God.

Watersprings Men's Ministry is excited to invite men ages 12 to 100 to our annual Man Camp, taking place **FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 16**, at beautiful Old Faithful Christian Ranch in Island Park, Idaho.

This year's theme is "Walk Like a Man," inspired by Paul's exhortation to believers in Philippians 1:27: "Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." In a culture that often sends confusing messages about manhood, God's Word continues to call men to courage, integrity, leadership, humility, and faithfulness. Throughout the weekend, our Bible studies and discussions will focus on what it means to walk worthy of the Gospel in our homes, workplaces, church, and community.

Man Camp is a signature outreach of Watersprings Men's Ministry under the leadership of Kevin Finnigan. Many of you know Kevin through Saturday's Man of God Bible Study, Brother's Breakfast, LIFE Class, or his faithful service on the Altar Call team. Kevin and the Men's leadership team have worked hard to create a weekend that is both spiritually enriching and incredibly enjoyable.

Nestled among the forests and mountains of Island Park, Old Faithful Christian Ranch is a Christ-

centered retreat facility located just a short drive from Yellowstone National Park. Founded in 1997, the ranch has become a place where believers can step away from the pressures of everyday life and focus on growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. The facility offers cabins, meeting spaces, RV sites, and plenty of room to enjoy God's creation.

The weekend will include great food, practical Bible teaching designed specifically for men,



campfire-and-coffee sessions, worship, fellowship, and plenty of outdoor activities. Bring your own firearm for the shooting range, your bow for archery, your motorcycle for exploring the area, or simply enjoy hiking, biking, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, and relaxing with friends.

Bunk-style lodging is available (just bring your sleeping bag), and a limited number of trailer/RV spaces are available during registration.

The cost is **\$175 PER PERSON**, and that includes accommodations, all meals, a Man Camp T-shirt, journal, and plenty of what we simply call "man stuff."

**EVEN BETTER,  
REGISTER BY JULY  
4TH AND RECEIVE 10%  
EARLY BIRD SAVINGS.**

Whether you're a teenager, a young husband and father, or a seasoned saint, Man Camp is an opportunity to build lifelong friendships, grow deeper in your faith, and be challenged to become the man God has called you to be.

Come for the camaraderie. Stay for the discipleship. Leave encouraged to walk like a man.

Trailhead of the Watersprings path to service and discipleship.

**AUGUST 23**

Register at [watersprings.net](http://watersprings.net)

**PATH-2**  
DISCIPLESHIP

Text "MOBILIZE" and amount to 877-399-7365

**MOBILIZE OUR MISSIONARIES**

Vehicle Fundraiser for Brad & Haley

All excess funds will go to future mission at Watersprings Church.

*Living*WATER

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ready to jump in?

**Church in the Park**

**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS**

July 19th  
1-3pm

register @ watersprings.net

Learn *God's ways* of handling money.

**August 3 - 31**  
Monday & Thursday Evenings



**RAMSEY FinancialPeace UNIVERSITY**

**MAN CAMP**  
*...Walk Like A Man*

**August 14-16**  
at Old Faithful Christian Ranch

Register at watersprings.net

**MOVE**

**SEPT 19**

**youth CONFERENCE**

AARON Yount, JOSH COHENSA, JORDAN SHULTZ

register @ watersprings.net

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

JUL 3	Church Office Closed in Observation of 4th of July	
JUL 5	Church on the Turf - 10:00am / Fountain Patio	No other weekend services
JUL 10	Ladies Prayer Night* - 7:00pm	
JUL 19	Pre-Baptism Class* - 1:00pm	
JUL 24	REVIVE Youth Lock-In*	
JUL 26	Coffee with the Pastor* - 1:00pm	
JUL 26	VBS Emerald Crossing*	
JUL 29	No Worship Service Due to VBS	
AUG 2	Church in the Park - 10:00am / Freeman Park	No other weekend services

**\*REGISTER FOR THESE CONNECTIONS @ WATERSPRINGS.NET**

VISIT THE **CONNECT CENTER**

The informational hub for all things Watersprings!



Thank you for being a part of the Watersprings family!

  
(208) 524-4747

  
watersprings.net

    
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@Watersprings Church