

## **Free English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes:**

A Ministry Plan prepared for Calvary Mountain View Church of American Fork

When, in Mark 12:31 NKJV, Yeshua gave the commandment: "... love your neighbor as yourself", he obviously meant Utah County because people keep moving here! With sustained yearly population growth rates over 5% we get a lot of new neighbors. Unfortunately, as one of the most demographically homogeneous places in the country, newcomers from other parts of the USA find our social scenes notoriously difficult to break into. Meanwhile, our super-majority tends to push immigrants from non-English speaking countries into tiny minority silos or worse: total isolation.

Can our chapel do more to welcome and love our new neighbors? Could we help them connect harmoniously to the broader community? Could we link them to His word, His people, and His love? Could we do all of these at once?

This church could offer an ESL ministry focused on helping adult and child immigrants to: break down language barriers, build relationships, and integrate more comfortably into the larger community. What would it look like?

- What?** Free ESL classes for whomever wants to learn!
- Who?** Clif Brooks and a rag-tag lot of 0+ volunteers.
- Where?** Ideally/initially in the Calvary Mountain View Chapel coffee shop.
- When?** Early morning, late evening, or both depending on demand and venue availability.
- Why?** To glorify God by loving our neighbors as ourselves.
- How?** Read on!

Although anyone who agrees to house rules may attend, this ministry had better initially focus on serving the largest demographic in the area: Spanish speakers. We can advertise in three escalating phases: 1. word of mouth and church service announcements; 2. handing out flyers through the food ministry; 3. Canvassing at businesses that employ people who don't speak English.

As for the curriculum, each class will begin and end in prayer. To engage and accommodate students of all skill levels in the same group, lessons will incorporate humor, props, body language, activities, and generally proceed improvisationally. By reserving the first half of each class for questions, we can immediately address people's most urgent real world language needs even if they only attend one class. As questions wind down, the instructor will present a 15-30 minute lesson that connects biblical vocabulary to practical applications. For example, by adapting the story of Noah's Arc, a lesson can cover vocabulary about modes of transportation, kinship, animals, and practical relational terms like: inside, outside, etc.

To maximize utility in minimal time, lessons will prioritize vocabulary over grammar, mainly by highlighting cognates; Spanish and English have thousands of identical and nearly identical words, so we can cover a lot more territory by teaching tricks to mutate word prefixes and suffixes instead of aspiring for perfect fluency.

Thank you for considering this Ministry Plan.  
Please direct questions to: [c@leastofhiscreatures.com](mailto:c@leastofhiscreatures.com)