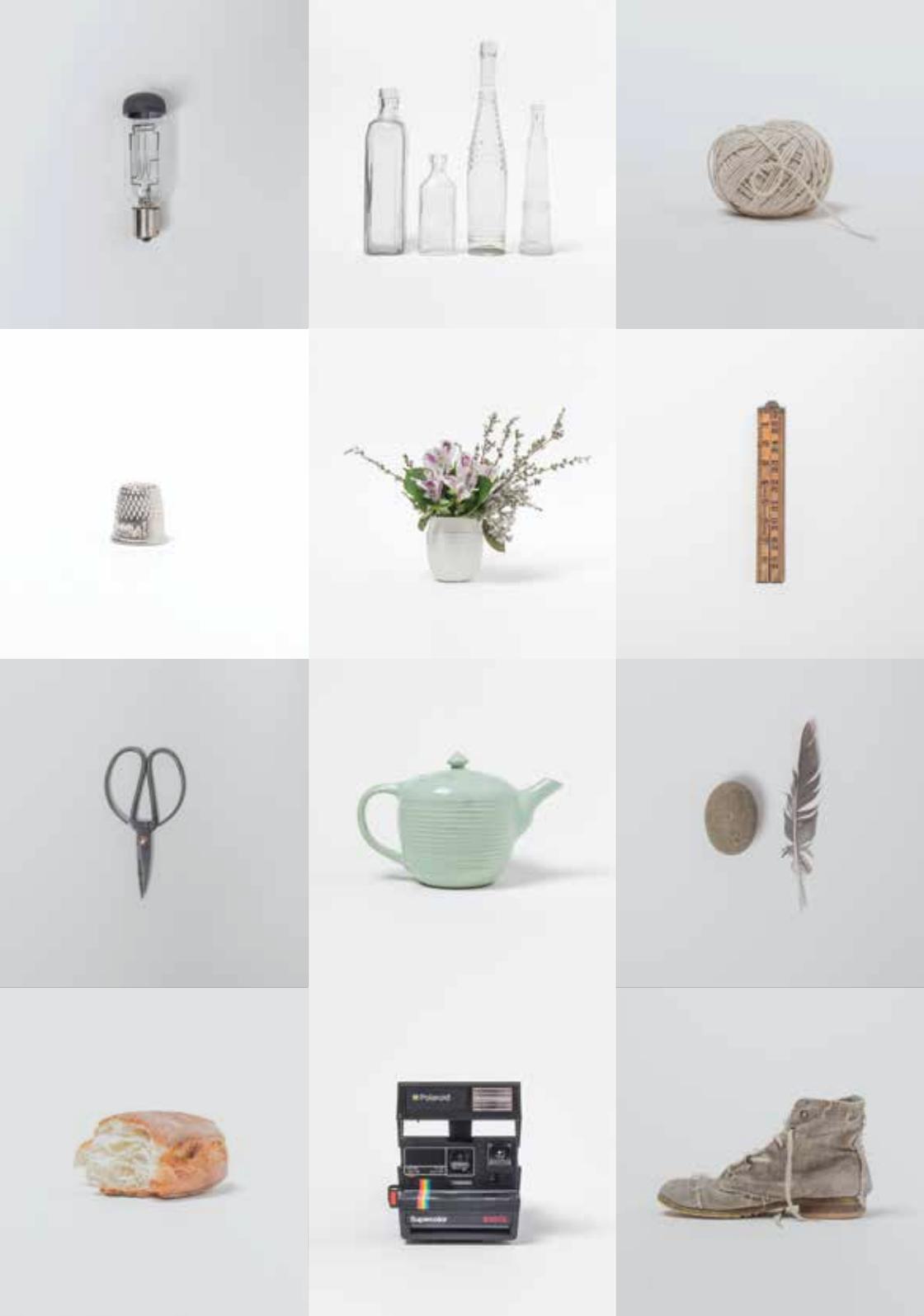






we





DNA: it's the signature of life, different for every person. That's true of churches, too. Certainly, it's true of Lifepoint—a church of passionate, real people, all very different from one another. Inspired to ask why we love being Lifepoint together, we had a go at “cracking the genome”. Several months of heartfelt conversations and “post-it” sessions gave us what we were looking for: 12 strands of DNA.

Read them, and see if they resonate with you.

MATTHEW SCOTT



01

different, together

There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

EPHESIANS 4:4-7

Diversity is a hallmark of Lifepoint. We share a conviction that following Jesus is the only way to live; yet what that looks like is not one thing, but many.

At the same time, we believe diversity is our strength. Or it can and should be: for each of us is given a particular grace. So we do what the Lord gives each to do; and we debate together; and we empower and learn from one another in our difference. Together, we seek unity in a common sense of God's task for us.



02

for Jesus, all

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-18

Lifepoint is devoted to Jesus, and serious about following him. We want to live real lives, authentic in every respect. We take responsibility for our spiritual and moral growth, and support others in theirs.

The virtue of generosity leavens our devotion. We know the generosity of God toward us, and seek to extend the same to one another. Generously we acknowledge our weakness; generously we affirm the good; generously we speak into one another's lives; generously we listen.

03

spirit, come



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

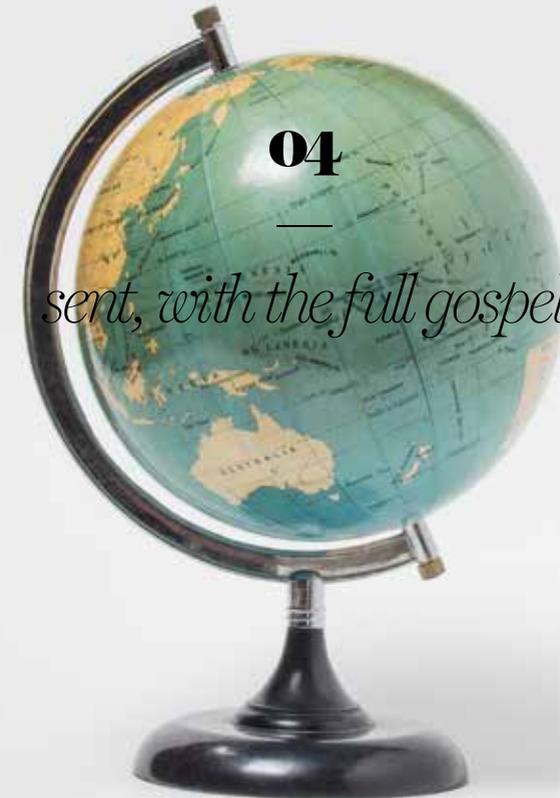
ACTS 1:1

Lifepoint is a people of prayer. We know that the Lord builds the house, or there is no house to build (Psalm 127:1). So we set our hearts to hear his voice, and to do all his bidding.

Lifepoint knows, too, that we can only build as the Holy Spirit enables us. So we welcome the presence and ministry of the Spirit in our gatherings, and seek the power of the Spirit for our mission. Especially, we have known him as the healer.

04

sent, with the full gospel



Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

MATTHEW 6:10

To the city, to the poor, to the world: Lifepoint is always in mission. What we offer is the full gospel: the good news about Jesus, about how he has loved us, about his claim on our lives, about the kingdom he is building.

We've always wanted to see that kingdom come, and we look for signs of it in line with our diversity. Some look especially for the grace of healing and the sign of personal transformation; some especially for the healing of relationships and the sign of community; some especially for injustice overcome and the sign of costly love.



05

—
generation next

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

MATT 19:14

Young people belong at Lifepoint, welcome just as they are, free to be young. Students are our heritage also. In Lifepoint, each generation turns its heart toward the next.



06

—
creative, every which way

But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

ISAIAH 65:18

Creativity is a hallmark of Lifepoint. It has to be: for in a diverse congregation like ours, creativity is needed to turn diversity to advantage, in our life together, and in the service of the kingdom.

Our creativity shows itself in many ways. We like to think creatively about the Christian life, and about how it might be lived counter-culturally. We give place to the arts in our services and gatherings, with a long tradition of homespun and homegrown. We delight in the mingling of generations and ethnicities. Even our meals together are creative, pulling together threads from world cuisine. Curry – exotic and spicy – is our culinary avatar.

07

as family, we belong



Then Jesus looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!”

MARK 3:34

An old tagline for Lifepoint still resonates with us: “where everyone is family”. Real relationship is a prime value for us: the sort of frank and honest relationship you’d hope for in a committed family. We talk openly about life as it really is, and a spade is always called a spade.

But if we’re a family, it’s surely because of Jesus. We belong to him, and so to each other. He is the family “head”.

08

Welcome, as you are



Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

ROMANS 15:7

Lifepoint lacks pretence. We can’t abide hype, and we don’t do slick. If that makes us a little rough around the edges, we’re okay with that. And we know there’s a real payoff: you can come just as you are.

That’s another reason why we look so diverse: no one is trying hard to be someone else. And it’s why God continues to bring to us such a range of people, all of whom find they have come home.

09

—
free indeed



Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is – freedom!

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

Lifepoint strives to be a place of freedom and safety. Lifepointers are free to conform and free to differ; free to leap in and free to hold back; free to speak up and free to keep silence. All are free to participate as and when God leads them.

Giving one another freedom, we make Lifepoint safe for the broken and vulnerable.

10

—
feast!



On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines.

ISAIAH 25:6

Lifepoint likes to eat together. When we do, it's typically a feast. Feasting together is an image of how we think life should be: overflowing with welcome, touched by celebration.

Many Lifepointers insist on good coffee too, though not everyone agrees on the best way to make it.



11

—
upon your word

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.

PSALM 119:105

In pursuit of real life in the 21st Century, Lifepoint looks to the Bible. For us, the two go together: the more we try to pinpoint our cultural coordinates (a challenge we're always up for), the more we rely on Scripture for the map.

We love to read close and deep; we love to debate what we find; and we love to work out what it means for life today. Sometimes there's playfulness in the reading; but we're always in earnest. We know the truth sets us free.



12

—
new song

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the ends of
the earth, you who go down to
the sea, and all that is in it,
you islands, and all who live
in them.

ISAIAH 42:10

Lifepoint has a strong voice. Though we know worship goes beyond music and song, we're glad to sing the praise of our creator and redeemer. We think it brings joy and pleasure to him. It certainly does to us.

Words matter to us: we're concerned to sing what is true. And among the many songs we've sung over the years are some we wrote ourselves, putting truth to music. We have a strong yen for new songs, and for our songs: songs that express the character of God's story, particular to us.



to +



WE ARE
LIFEPPOINT
CHURCH



am
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HERE



SEND
US

Real People • Real Life