

RYAN LOKKESMOE

Katy pastor authors book to help provide better understanding of the Bible

Written by Kelly Boldt | Select photography by Anetrius Wallace

Ryan Lokkesmoe didn't set out to write a book. He and his wife Ashley found Katy almost four years ago while in search of a vibrant, growing community where they could make their contribution and raise their family. When the Lokkesmoes visited Katy for the first time, they knew it was definitely the place where they could plant their flag. "We believed that Katy was the kind of community worth investing in," explains Lokkesmoe. And invest he did. Lokkesmoe has recently released his first book, *Blurry: Bringing Clarity to the Bible*.

Helping Others Understand the Bible

Lokkesmoe is the small groups pastor at Parkway Fellowship Church in Katy and quickly learned that this is a community of fast-paced, busy families with many demands on their time. "I've met a lot of people who are new to church or come from a place where personal Bible reading isn't part of their lives," Lokkesmoe explains. "They struggle with understanding this really long, complex book called the Bible. There were many books out there to help, but they were all very long and complex, too."

For several years, he had been formulating ideas for a book. "My job at Parkway Fellowship allowed me to clearly see the need and compelled me to revive those old ideas and get it written," he says. He decided to turn his ideas into a simple, concise guide to help people begin to understand the Bible - to make it less 'blurry'.

Navigating the Publishing World

The next step was to get the book published. "I didn't know anything about the publishing process," shares Lokkesmoe. "I had no personal connections. So I went online, looked up Christian publishers and sent my outline to every one of them." Lokkesmoe was eventually contacted by two different agents and two different publishers who were interested in his book.

"I believe that the reason I succeeded in getting my book published is because I proved to them that there were no introductions to the Bible that were short and written in plain language," says Lokkesmoe. He provided a list of many other similar resources with page counts and prices. They were all much longer and more expensive. Lokkesmoe had found a gap in the market that didn't seem to be covered. "CLC Publications agreed and published my book," he adds.

Looking to the Future

Like many authors, Lokkesmoe knows the process of writing and publishing a book isn't a simple one and encourages those who desire to write to have perseverance. "I would tell somebody to spend a lot of time thinking about exactly what they want their book to accomplish. Also, how would this book compare to similar books that are already out there because that will determine whether or not the book has any traction. Finally, do your market research ahead of time. It will help determine your target audience and help convince the publisher that your voice can add to the conversation. If you don't think about these things before you start, your thoughts won't be cohesive at all."

The Katy community has been very supportive of Lokkesmoe's efforts. "My hope is that if the book is successful, it will be because people read it, find it helpful, and tell their friends. I don't want it to succeed because of a slick marketing campaign, but because it really accomplishes the goal of equipping average, busy people to wrap their head around the Bible."

Lokkesmoe stays busy as the father of 21-month-old Luke with a new brother or sister on the way and enjoys all of the benefits that Katy provides for young families. "I could not have accomplished this project without the loving support of my wife, Ashley," says Lokkesmoe. "Not only did she work hard so I could complete my education, she has partnered with me to achieve our goal of bringing this book to life. I love the Katy community and plan on sticking around for a long time." **KM**

KELLY BOLDT is a Katy mom of three teenagers who loves learning and writing about the Katy community.

Bible Study New Releases

Ryan Lokkesmoe wrote *Blurry* to be an instructional book in plain language

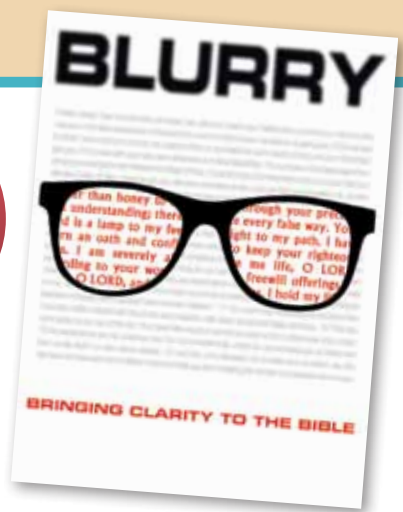


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Lokkesmoe with his wife Ashley and son Luke

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Blurry: Bringing Clarity to the Bible can be found in Christian bookstores and is also available for digital download.



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