

When we started attending Lifegate in 2010, we immediately felt like we had found our church home. We truly felt like part of the family from our first visit, but didn't know how true that would be until we experienced a really difficult time in our lives, and our Lifegate family came alongside us every step of the way.

When we came to Lifegate, we had been trying to start a family unsuccessfully for about 8 months. We shared this with Pastor Chad and Amber and a few other couples we met early on, asking for their prayers. They helped connect us with another couple in the church who was going through similar issues, and got us involved in a Lifegroup. When we decided to pursue fertility treatments, our church family fervently prayed for us. Throughout the next 2 1/2 years, they continued to pray for us through the treatments, rejoiced with us in 2 pregnancies, and mourned with us through 2 miscarriages. When we lost both babies, our Lifegate family was there, and not just in spirit; they came to visit, brought food, and prayed with us in our home. They checked on us constantly and let us know they loved us. We truly could not have gotten through this time without our Lifegate family.

Then, after walking this journey with us for 2 1/2 years, when we were told about a birth mom who was pregnant and making an adoption plan and we decided to pursue that adoption, our Lifegate family was ecstatic and immediately sprang into action. They helped us organize fundraisers, let us have the biggest garage sale ever at the church, and tons of Lifegate members donated items to sell and worked the garage sale with us. I will never forget Kip Boydston and Josh Johnson spending the night with Mike OUTSIDE on the garage sale couches we were trying to sell, just to make sure no one stole our stuff! If that's not love, I don't know what is!!

When Bentley came home, tons of our Lifegate family came to snuggle with her and pray over her, and the Benson's and several other families from Lifegate came to her adoption finalization at the courthouse on the day she "officially" became an Evans.

And if that wasn't enough, when we found out a year and a half later that Bentley's birth mom had another baby, and a few months after that asked us to adopt him as well, our Lifegate family once again rallied around us and helped us raise the funds needed to adopt Corbin. Our church family helped us arrange a garage sale at the church again, worked it with us, and we raised the funds to bring Corbin home in just 3 weeks!! They helped us gather together everything we would need for a baby on super short notice, came to love on him when he came home with us, and once again came to the courthouse for his adoption finalization when he became an Evans forever. Having Pastor Chad dedicate both of our kids at Lifegate after everything our church family walked through with us was such a sweet, special experience!

When we say that our Lifegate family is our family, we truly mean it. They faithfully walked beside us through our darkest times, and rejoiced with us through the miracle of God building our family. We have truly experienced our Lifegate family being the hands and feet of Jesus, and we could not be more thankful.

-Mike & Becky Evans