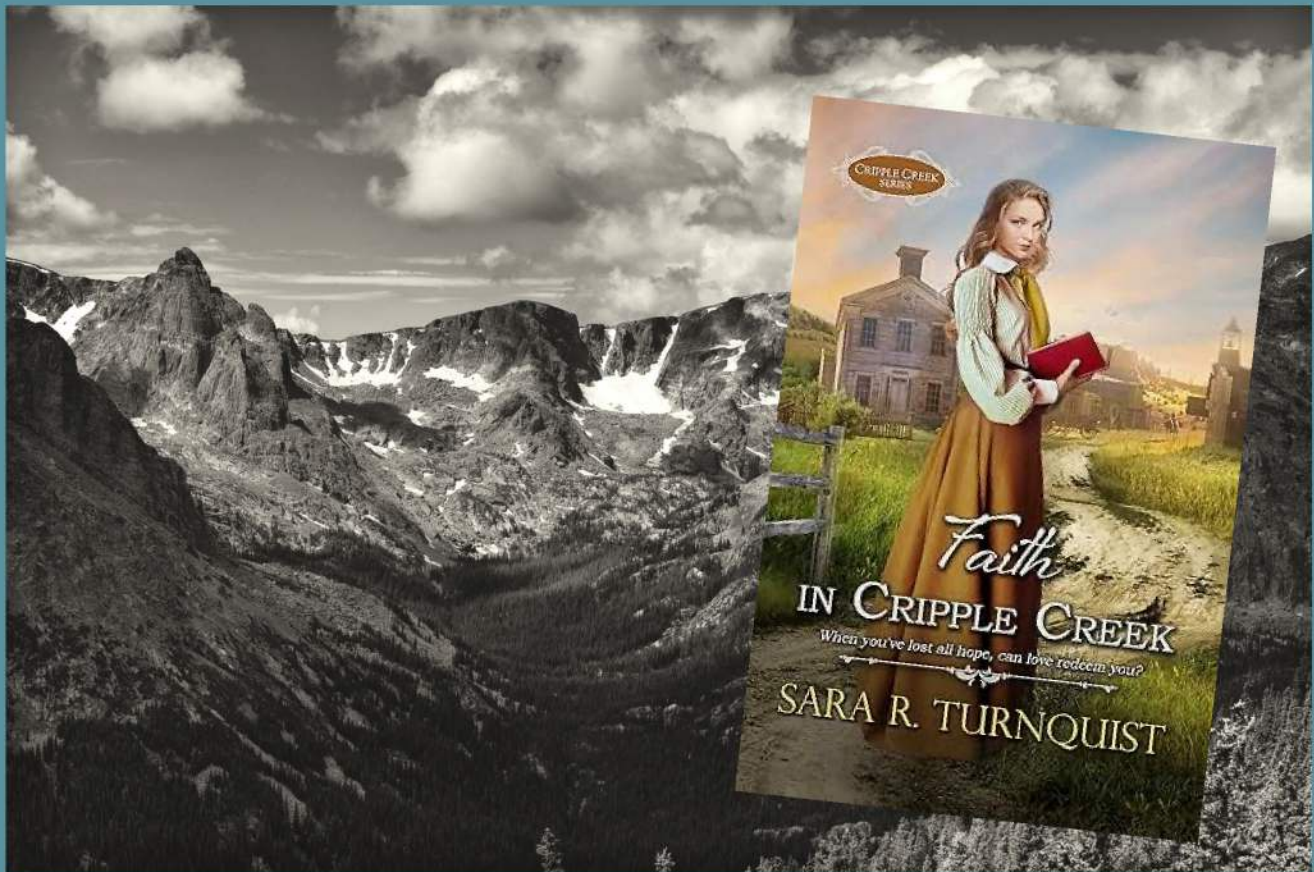


CRIPPLE CREEK
SERIES

Book Club Kit



A Novel by
Sara R. Turnquist

About Sara R. Turnquist

Sara is a coffee lovin', word slinging, clean Historical Romance author whose super power is converting caffeine into novels. She loves those odd little tidbits of history that are stranger than fiction. That's what inspires her. Well, that and a good love story.



But of all the love stories she knows, hers is her favorite. She lives happily with her own Prince Charming and their gaggle of minions. Three to be exact. They sure know how to distract a writer! But, alas, the stories must be written, even if it must happen in the wee hours of the morning.

Sara is an avid reader and also enjoys reading clean Historical Romance when she's not traveling. Her books range from the Czech lands to the American Wild West and from ancient Egypt to the early 1900s. Some of her titles include *The Lady Bornekova*, *Hope in Cripple Creek*, *The General's Wife*, *Trail of Fears*, and the Convenient Risk Series.

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[x.com/SaraRTurnquist](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/Sara_R_Turnquist)

www.facebook.com/authorsararturnquist

[Pinterest.com/saraturquist/](https://www.pinterest.com/saraturquist/)

www.youtube.com/@SaraRTurnquist

Q&A With Sara Turnquist

- **Why did you continue Timothy's story?**

After *Hope in Cripple Creek*, it nagged at me. I wanted to further Katherine and Wyatt's story a bit (which I did in *Christmas in Cripple Creek*, but Timothy continued to talk to me (as characters do sometimes). And I wanted to bring the pastor back to his faith. To show that pastors are not immune to temptation and sin, but that there is also a way back to faith for them.

- **Why did you decide that Jane would not be able to bear children?**

I have a few friends who have or who are struggling with infertility. I wanted them to be able to see themselves represented in a kind, caring character. Even in the end, I did not want to give this message that "if you pray hard enough, it will happen." While God can and does heal, it's not always His plan. And our lives are more about His purposes and His glory than what we want.

- **Where did you pull your inspiration for Jane?**

Jane is modeled quite a bit from one of my friends who, while she did struggle with infertility, now has two beautiful girls. She has always been very open about her journey and trusting God amid the trial. So, our friendship, our honesty with each other, and our walking through rough stuff together is reflected in Jane and Katherine's friendship.

Q&A With Sara Turnquist

- **Was there anything that surprised you when writing the story?**

SPOILER ALERT – When Timothy’s mother passes...I did not see that coming. Literally. He walked in the door and her having passed on was just as much a surprise to me as it was to the reader. But there is a famous writing quote from Robert Frost that says:

“No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise in the writer, no surprise in the reader.”

That was certainly true in this case. And something that tends to happen to me when characters die. I do not see it coming most of the time. There is a book in another series that has a character death early in the story. And I actually had plans for that character later in the book. That replotting needed to happen quickly. And a lot of replotting happened.

- **What was the most surprising challenge you faced while writing this story?**

Dealing with the emotions of the character. With Jane’s situation, I have never walked that road. So, asking friends and loved ones to share their pain so that I could get it right was difficult. As well, as the postpartum depression Katherine goes into. That is part of my own story. So revisiting those emotions myself was not easy

Q&A With Sara Turnquist

- **How did you chose the names for the books in this series?**

Hope in Cripple Creek was chosen because of the themeing of the book and the progression of the plot. *Christmas in Cripple Creek* started out as a fun continuation/holiday story. But when I decided to go further, Faith... seemed to suit the theme here with Timothy returning to his own faith journey. Then, I determined that the final book in the series would be Love... and have faith, hope, and love. It seemed fitting.

- **Were there any messages or themes you consciously set out to explore in the book?**

I wanted to address postpartum depression in a time when treatments were few and the only real option other than care and sedation by medicines was an asylum. Which, even then, were known to be a last resort option in these cases for family that didn't want to subject their loved one to such a place. I wanted to explore the journey back to faith. What does it look like for someone who has "walked away" from their faith to come back to it? To reawaken to God's work in and through them? We are never a lost cause to God. He is eager and ready to have us run back to him

Q&A With Sara Turnquist

- **How do you balance your writing with the other aspects of your life?**

It is quite the balancing act indeed. I am a wife, homemaker, and mother to three wonderful kiddos (2 of which are on the autism spectrum). So balancing the house's needs, my own self care with my mood disorder, and what my husband and kiddos need...plus ministry and friendships...can be a bit overwhelming. I am a planner and I try to organize my time well, but hold it with an open hand, and a soft heart willing to have the plan upset at any moment.

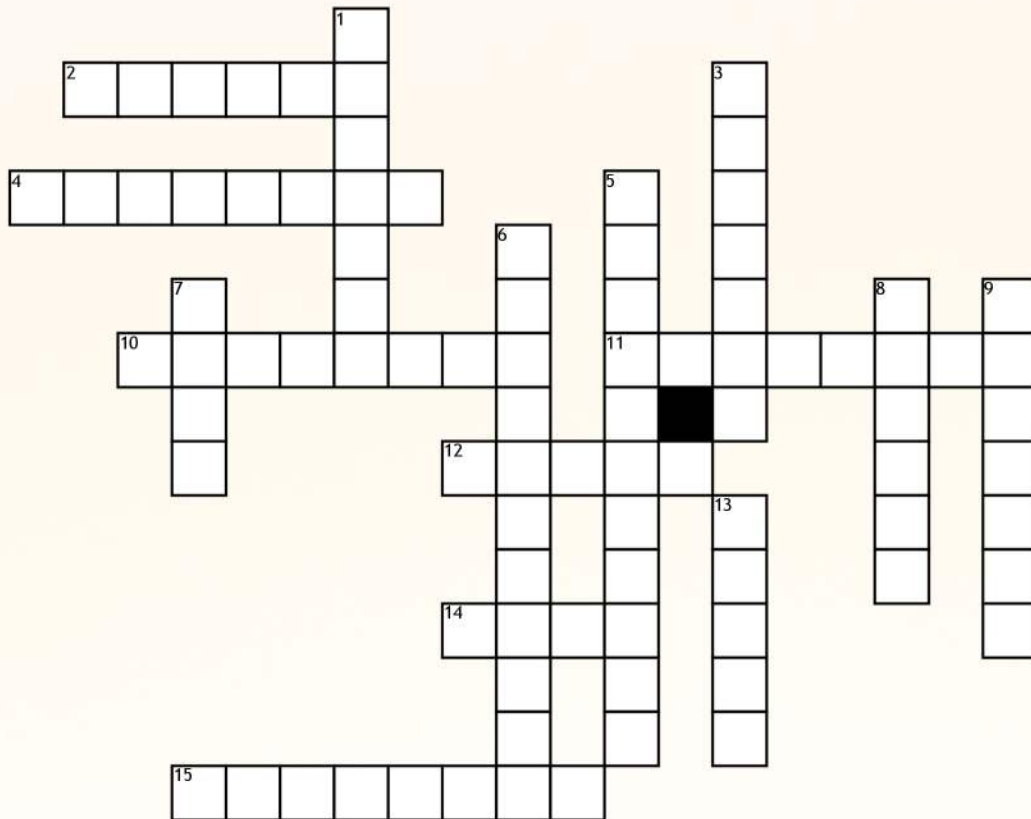
- **How do you handle writer's block or moments of doubt writing?**

Writer's block can be challenging. I find, most often, for me at least, writer's block is simply that I haven't primed the creative pump well enough. Like an old-time water pump, you have to do the hard work to pump it before the water starts to flow. Once it does, the work becomes easier.

Sometimes, I just have to sit down and do a writing prompt, edit the last scene I wrote, or talk myself into writing one sentence, then one paragraph, and so on until it starts to come more easily.

Ah...imposter syndrome is a real thing. Doubting my ability to create again or create anything worthy of the world's eyes... is hard. I fight that by remembering that I write for you readers, but ultimately for my audience of One. For God's glory and His purposes. He has called me to this, and He will sustain me and preserve me until He calls me to something else.

Faith In Cripple Creek



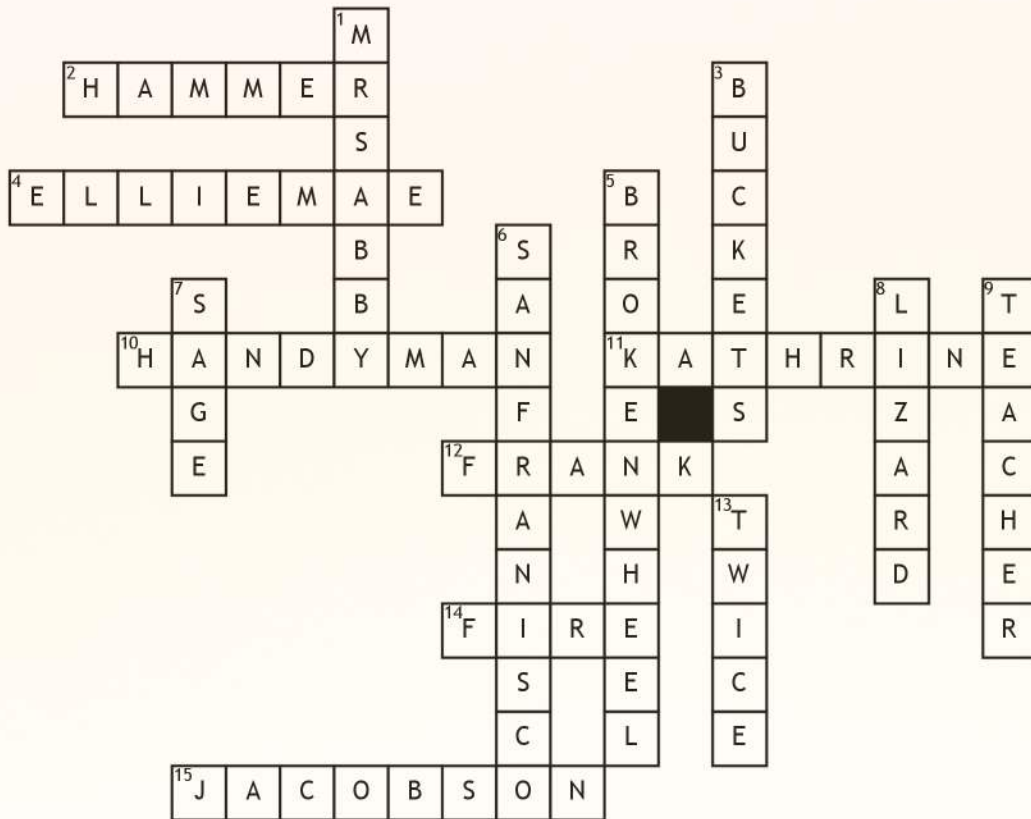
Across

2. How did Timothy injure his thumb?
4. What was the name of Wyatt & Katherine's youngest child?
10. What is Timothy's job?
11. Who is Jane's friend in Cripple Creek?
12. What was the name of Jane's fiancé?
15. Who is the mayor of Cripple Creek?

Down

1. Whose cafe is everyone going to?
3. What did the citizens of Victor fill with wart to put out the fire?
5. What precipitated Timothy & Jane's first kiss?
7. What did Timothy's Mom put too much of in the chill?
8. At the beginning of the story, what animal did Lemuel have?
9. What is Jane's job?
13. How many times did Timothy ask Jane to marry him?

Faith In Cripple Creek



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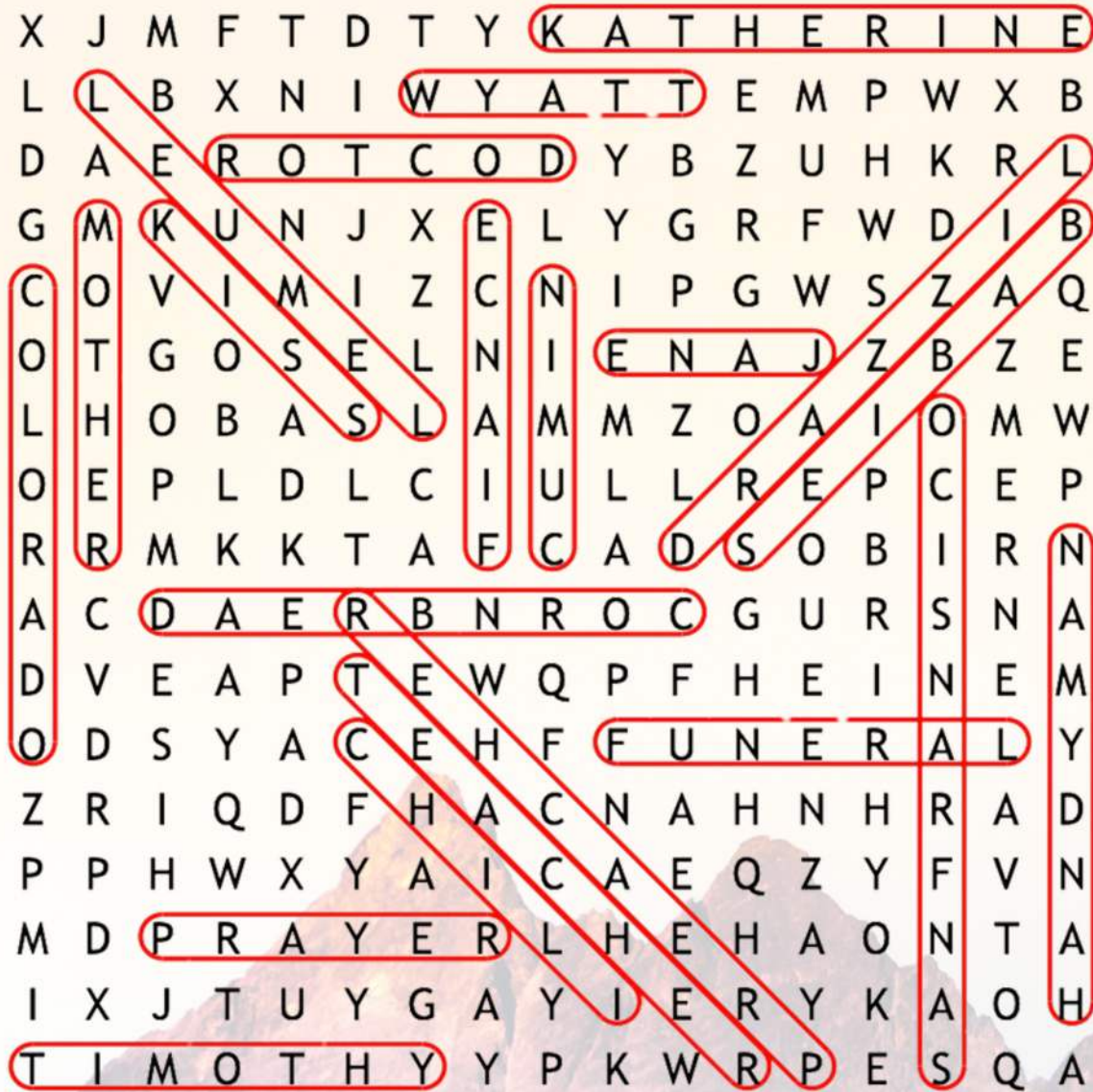
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Faith in Cripple Creek

X J M F T D T Y K A T H E R I N E
L L B X N I W Y A T T E M P W X B
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C O V I M I Z C N I P G W S Z A Q
O T G O S E L N I E N A J Z B Z E
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T I M O T H Y Y P K W R P E S Q A

SanFrancisco	Fiance	Funeral	Doctor	Babies
Chili	Cornbread	Kiss	Prayer	Mother
Cumin	Lizzard	Wyatt	Handyman	Katherine
Jane	Timothy	Lemuel	Teacher	Preacher
Colorado				

Faith in Cripple Creek



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|--------------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|
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| Chili | Cornbread | Kiss | Prayer | Mother |
| Cumin | Lizzard | Wyatt | Handyman | Katherine |
| Jane | Timothy | Lemuel | Teacher | Preacher |
| Colorado | | | | |

Discussion Questions

Read these questions in your book club and talk about your answers.

- How do you think this book fits in with the other books in this series?
- What do you think about Timothy's journey?
- Would you recommend this book to someone else? Why or Why not?
- How, if at all, did this book relate to your own life? Did it evoke any memories or create any connections for you?
- What were some of your favorite scenes from the book? Why did they stand out to you?
- If you could ask the author one question about this book, what would it be?
- We see Katherine struggle with postpartum depression. What did this bring to the book?
- How did the author create conflict and tension in the book? What was the main conflict or problem in the story and how was it resolved?
- How did this book relate to your own life experiences or interests in the present day?

Dear Reader

My heart for you as you have delved into Timothy and Jane's story is that you have taken measure of where your own faith journey is. And that you embrace that God is ready with open arms wherever you are in that walk—whether distant or close. He is gracious and loving and so eager to draw you closer to His side.

I also hope that if you have struggled with any of the issues addressed in this book, that you have a support system. And that you have found some sort of care or resolution. If you need it, there is no shame in seeking counseling or further medical care. They, like anything else, are tools in God's hands. I think the church at large has done a disservice to many suffering with mood disorders. Saying that if you were right with the Lord or praying enough, you wouldn't struggle. That is not true. God has a path for you and a plan for you and for His glory. Sometimes that takes us through a dark valley.

And if you have struggled with barrenness, my prayer for you is that God will wrap you in His love and truth. My prayer is that He gives you your hearts desire—be that a child of your own or one through the gift of adoption. But God knows your path and your desires. Take them to Him and make them known from your heart to His. The truth is, He already does know.

This book does go into some hard things, reader friend. I pray that any sensitive matter that has touched your heart has done so with the touch of the Holy Spirit to comfort you. My intention is not to wound, or put salt on a wound, but to shine a light and help others become more aware of the reality of these struggles.

Blessings,

Sara



CRIPPLE CREEK
SERIES



Book Club Kit
Faith in Cripple Creek



**Book Club
Menu**





Widow Johnson's (Actual) Chili

Goes Great With Lauren's Cornbread

- 2 pounds lean ground beef
- 1 onion diced
- 1 jalapeño seeded and finely diced
- 4 cloves garlic minced
- 2 1/2 tablespoons chili powder divided , or to taste
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 green bell pepper seeded and diced
- 14 1/2 ounces crushed tomatoes 1 can
- 19 ounces canned red kidney beans drained & rinsed 14 1/2 ounces canned diced tomatoes with juice
- 1 1/2 cups beef broth
- 1 cup beer
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar optional
- salt and black pepper to taste

Directions

- Combine ground beef and 1 ½ tablespoons chili powder.
- In a large pot, brown ground beef, onion, jalapeno, and garlic. Drain any fat.
- Add in remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until 45- 60 minutes or until chili has reached desired thickness.
- Top with cheddar cheese, green onions, cilantro, or other favorite toppings.

<https://www.spendwithpennies.com/the-best-chili-recipe/>



Mrs. Matthew's Famous Apple Cobbler

- 3 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 6 large Granny Smith apples – peeled, cored and sliced 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 cup water

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- Combine 3 tablespoons sugar and cinnamon in a bowl.
- Layer apples in an ungreased 9x13-inch baking pan, sprinkling each layer with cinnamon-sugar mixture.
- Combine flour, 1 cup sugar, egg, and baking powder with a fork. Sprinkle over apples in the baking pan. Lightly sprinkle water over top.
- Bake in the preheated oven until topping is golden brown, about 30 minutes.

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/282982/easy-apple-cobbler/?print>



Wyatt's Trail Mix

- 1 30 oz container of unsalted cashews
- 2 14 oz bags of oven-roasted unsalted almonds
- 2 5oz bags of dried cherries
- 2 3.5 oz bags of dried blueberries
- 2 10 oz bags of dark chocolate chips

Directions

- Mix all the ingredients together.

<https://adventureswithkelly.com/2023/01/20/easy-diy-trail-mix/>



Hummmus for Katie's Garden Veggies

- 1 (15oz) can chickpeas or 1 1/2 cups (250g) cooked chickpeas 1/4 cup (60ml) fresh lemon juice, 1 large lemon
- 1/4 cup (60ml) well-stirred tahini, try our homemade tahini recipe 1 small garlic clove, minced
- 2 tablespoons (30ml) extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for serving 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- Salt to taste
- 2 to 3 tablespoons (45ml) cold water or aquafaba
- Dash ground paprika, sumac, or Za'atar for serving

Directions

- In the bowl of a food processor, combine the tahini and lemon juice and process for 1 minute. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl, then process for 30 seconds more. This extra time helps “whip” or “cream” the tahini, making the hummus smooth and creamy.
- Add the olive oil, minced garlic, cumin, and a 1/2 teaspoon of salt to the whipped tahini and lemon juice. Process for 30 seconds, scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl, and then process for another 30 seconds or until well blended.
- Add half of the chickpeas to the food processor and process for 1 minute. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl, then add the remaining chickpeas and process them until thick and relatively smooth, 1 to 2 minutes.
- The hummus will likely be too thick and still have tiny bits of chickpea. To fix this, slowly add 2 to 3 tablespoons of cold water or aquafaba with the food processor turned on until you reach the perfect consistency.

<https://www.inspiredtaste.net/15938/easy-and-smooth-hummmus-recipe/>

Thank you so much for reading
Faith in Cripple Creek

Would you like for Sara to visit
your book club? She can visit
in person or virtually. If you
are interested please
contact her at
sara@sareturnquist.com.

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