

My testimony about knowing Jesus begins at an early age. I cannot remember a time when I didn't believe in Christ and talk to him. I believe I accepted Christ as a young child, probably 4 years old. He was always there and I knew that. Growing up in a very dysfunctional and abusive family, Christ was the stable person in my life. I believe He protected me as I watched how my siblings seemed to follow the wide path to alcohol, drugs and other vices. I had a knowledge of what was right behavior and couldn't understand why I seemed to be the only one.

By the time I was 6 years old (I was the youngest child), my parents decided to let us children decide if we wanted to go church. I do not know how often my parents took us to church during my early childhood, but I frequently decided to go after they stopped taking me. That meant riding a church bus by myself, if possible, and sometimes walking by myself to church. I knew that I wanted to know Jesus more.

Then the teenage years hit, and I decided to stop going to church. I continued to be a pretty good kid, good grades, obedient...except for the unseemly words that started to come out of my mouth; I am pretty ashamed of the language I used during that time. Little did I know that God would provide a path for me to follow back to Him.

My parents decided to move the summer before my junior year of high school. The girl who became my best friend at that school happened to be a preacher's kid. Of course, she invited me to church and I went. It was awkward at first, but then I wanted to go all the time. I went to youth group and was really learning Jesus in a way I hadn't before. I had been saved, but realized I hadn't developed a real relationship with Him. Eventually, in 1987, I decided to rededicate my life to Jesus and finally be baptized at First General Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan. From that point, I started really reading the Bible, though not like I do now. I read books about the Bible and went to Bible studies. All of this helped me know Jesus in ways I could have never dreamed as that little 4-year-old.

As an adult, I've continued to study the Bible, but only in the last 10 years or so has God gifted me with discernment and excitement to learn about Him, in a way I never realized I lacked. I now read the Bible daily and it has become my "most important meal of the day". It's like a banquet laid out and every day I get a taste of something new from that table. That is why I love attending Lighthouse.

We've been coming for about 3 months and I have never been so happy to go church! It's not about socializing (but that is nice...); it's about what I get to learn when I get there. I'm actually bummed that I have to wait a whole week for the next Sunday sermon. I feel like I'm growing in my relationship with Jesus when I attend worship at Lighthouse. The pastoral staff (everyone) is humble and really listens for the Lord's leading. I truly believe that the pastors here are what Christ was teaching about as good shepherds in Zechariah. You all truly learn from THE Shepherd and help to take care of His sheep until He comes to gather us. In the past three months, I feel I have been prepared (and continue to be prepared) in the way Christ told us to be. I know that Christ truly led us to Lighthouse; there's no other explanation. He knows us best and knows what is best for us. Right now, the best is attending and serving at Lighthouse.