

Hi I am Ava Rotsch and I am a sophomore at Eden Prairie High School.

I would like to start off with a prayer.

Dear God, thank you for this day that I am able to share my faith to my small group and speak from my heart. I bless everyone else sharing their faith in their small groups and hopefully we can connect and cherish these special moments together. Amen

I believe that God is an immortal being who created all things. I believe that God offered humans salvation and eternal life, and that Jesus died for all of us to live an eternal life. I believe God speaks to us from the holy spirit. The Holy Spirit is with the people. I think that my relationship with God is renewed since we are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Baptism connects us to Jesus Christ, this can be seen in a part in Galatians that says, "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." I chose to say yes to God because I wanted to enter a relationship with someone who would save, help, and guide me to become the best version of myself. I said yes to live for his plan that includes healing from pain, freedom and forgiveness of sin and guilt, and a never ending life.

My active faith in Jesus has impacted my life immensely. He has taught me, offered hope and peace to me, and sets an example in my everyday life. It is so important that Jesus is in my life because he is my savior who died for everyone publicly, which I think means we shouldn't be worshiping him privately and should be expressing him and living life through him.

My relationship with Jesus has impacted my life with my friends and family in many ways. My relationship with God taught me that I can't separate school, home life, church, friends, and hobbies. They are all intertwined into the person I am and reflect on my daily life.

The presence of God has made a difference in my everyday life for many reasons. It impacts my decisions, and has helped shape me into who I am today.

My faith in Christ has helped me get through hard times in my life. I believe that Christ allows hard times and suffering to bring us closer to him. So whenever I am going through something difficult or challenging, I know that God is trying to connect with me and I get reassurance during that time that everything happens for a reason and it will all work out in the end.

A couple weeks ago, I had been sent videos from guys body shaming me. I was questioning God that whole day wondering why he allowed those people to say such hurtful things to me and another friend of mine. I know this is going to sound crazy but after that night, I had a dream where God came to me telling me how I was loved and worthy. I was so surprised when that occurred, that I realized that he really was there and talking to me, even if it was for a few seconds. It has changed my perspective on life how some people come into your life either for the good or bad, but they are all in our life to make us stronger.

In tough times, God's word brings me comfort and reassurance that everything will be ok in the end and work out. People in my life have also helped me get through hard times by praying with and for me. God is with us every step of the way.

One verse that has helped me get through hard times is Isaiah 43: 2-3, "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you, when you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your savior." His word says when we go through difficult times, he will be with us. And those times will not consume us if we keep our eyes on him. Another verse is Jerimiah 29:11, "For He knows the plan He has for us. Plans to prosper us and not harm us. Plans for a future and a hope."

I will seek to stay close to my church friends through social media and hanging out. And I will remain in God's family by going to church every Sunday.

I will be present in worship to hear God's word by reading the Bible, praying, and listening.

I will spread God's love by doing and completing good actions, being kind to others, and helping people in need.

I will serve all people by being there for them in times of need, I will support and encourage, and listen to others.

I will work for peace and justice by standing up to what I believe is right.

My confirmation Bible verse is "So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10).

That verse is important to me because I think fear is universal. All of us deal with things that scare us. We can't deal with anything we don't acknowledge. We need to be honest with ourselves and face those fears. God knows us thoroughly. He knows when we get worried or become anxious. He knows we're human. And yet, God gives us many reminders to fear not. To fear not means to trust God instead of believing our present situation is bigger than God is. God wants us to trust him. To trust that he will be enough, no matter what.