

Hello, my name is Jordan Loper, I am a sophomore at Eden Prairie High School.

I am thankful for being raised in a Christian home. I appreciate that my parents and Grandparents have all taught me about keeping a strong faith and staying close to God, even though it is not always easy for me.

I know that God created me and all people. He loves us all and shows us Grace, just as we should all show love and kindness to each other. I feel that if more people had God in their lives they would treat others more as equals, knowing that we are all children of God.

God has carried me through some stressful times this past year. Volleyball is very important to me and my Freshman year tryouts were very stressful. It was my first year of playing volleyball. I had to try out with girls my own age and older who had been playing for many years longer. It was very intimidating and there were many times that I wanted to quit. But I went home every night and prayed to God, that he would be there with me on the court. I did make the Freshman team which was great, but I did not make the Club team in the winter which was very disappointing. God has taught me to never give up, and this fall, I made that 10th grade team. I am so thankful.

These last 7 months have been very hard for everyone due to Corona. My Grandparents are obviously limiting their contact with others for their own safety but when needing to limit contact with family, it is hard on all of us. I thank God that we have all stayed healthy so far. I pray for all people who are suffering both physically and mentally, now more than ever. I am so thankful for my friends and family and can't imagine what it would be like to be alone at this time. Hoping that if people remembered God and asked him to be in their lives, they would never really feel alone.

This is why I chose the Bible verse Psalm 34 verse 4. It says, I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all of my fears. This verse spoke to me because I know how challenging life can be, and if we just go to God and pray, He will help us get through our hard times.

Dear god, please be with the people that are struggling during this time and help us all stay close to you in our time of need.