

Sam Van Sloun

Hello, I am Sam Van Sloun; I am a sophomore at Eden Prairie High School in Eden Prairie. I enjoy playing baseball, basketball and spending time with friends and family. I would like to start with a prayer thanking God for this opportunity to share my faith; Heavenly Father, you know every decision I need to make and every challenge I face. Please forgive me for the times I try to figure this life out on my own. I need you. I need the Holy Spirit to give me strength, wisdom and direction. Amen.

I believe that God created the universe and man in his image. I believe that God's son (Jesus) was born of the virgin Mary. Jesus was put on earth to die in order to bring humans salvation from sin. I believe that the Holy Spirit was God's presence before there was anything. I believe the holy spirit is God's spirit watching over all of us.

When I was baptised I believed that that was God welcoming me into the christian community and saying "yes" to me. Since I have been baptised I believe that if I live a good and honest life I will be welcomed into heaven. I have also said "yes" to god because I believe that he is the creator of everything and that if I worship him I can have eternal life in heaven.

Active faith in Jesus Christ is important to me because I always know I have someone that I can close my eyes and talk to. It is comforting knowing that I have somebody watching over me and guiding my decisions. My relationship with my family is impacted by Jesus because I know I can always talk to them about my religion and beliefs, and that makes us more connected spiritually. With my friends I let my faith in Jesus guide my words and actions and that allows me to make deeper connections with my friends. It comforts me to know that God is always watching over me and guiding me through life.

A time where I have really needed Jesus's love and guidance is when my grandma died. She had a three battle year with cancer and ultimately died. She was a very important person in my life because during summers she cared for my brother and I. We really enjoyed the numerous activities we would do with her, and even though we challenged her at times she showed God's love unconditionally. Her death was the first death that I experienced that I fully understood, and it gave me great comfort knowing that she was now in God's loving hands.

Recently I have been very overwhelmed with the many things going on in my life. Just last week I had two projects due, two tests, my drivers test that I had to study for and my confirmation faith statement that I hadn't even started yet. During this time I thought about the bible verse Phillipians 4:19 it says "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus". That got me thinking that all of this was going to work out because God will help and guide me through all of this stress.

I intend to stay close to my christian friends by regularly attending worship and being active in the church community. I will bear Christ's light and spread God's love by volunteering and teaching friends and family about God and Jesus. I will work for peace in all places that I go by following the actions of Jesus Christ and spread love and the word of God.

My confirmation bible verse is Psalm 23: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. This verse is important to me because it says that God does so much for us and that if I trust in him through the dark times he will have my back and shield me from evil. It also says that even when I do die it won't matter because I will be with him in heaven forever.

In closing I'd like to pray. Heavenly Father, thank you for your guidance. Forgive me for getting ahead of your plans, and help me know when to stop and listen for your direction. Your ways are perfect, Lord. Thank you for offering gentle grace. In Jesus name, Amen