

VOLUME IV | SPRING 2021



MORE
THAN
A STORY

AN EDINBORO CHI ALPHA
DEVOTIONAL

More Than a Story

A Collection of Testimonies from Edinboro Chi Alpha

An Edinboro Chi Alpha Devotional

Volume IV
Spring 2021

They triumphed over [the enemy] by the blood
of the Lamb and by the word of their
testimony; they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death. (NIV)
—Revelation 12:11—

Table of Contents

Introduction

—pg #1

Why Do You Call Me Good?

—pg #3

If God Is Light, Why Am I Living in Darkness?

—pg #4

He Is Always With You

—pg #6

Are You the One?

—pg #8

How Can a Man Be Born Again?

—pg #10

Who Do You Say That I Am?

—pg #12

Do You Love Me?

—pg #14

This Is a Hard Teaching. Who Can Accept It?

—pg #16

Are We Out of the Woods Yet?

—pg #18

Intro: The Stories We Tell

When I was a freshman in college one of the first Bible courses I took was called “New Testament Survey.” It was a flyover of the entire New Testament that, more often than not, felt like drinking out of a firehose, but I’ll never forget the way our study of the parables impacted my view of Jesus. Here was the God of the universe made flesh—the Creator of space and time stepping into His Creation, and how does He bridge the cultural gap between Heaven and Earth? Through the power of story. Jesus took impossibly complex principles about the Kingdom of Heaven and made them accessible to the masses: from the religious leader to the uneducated farmer and everyone in between, by becoming a Storyteller. Granted, we may need more time to process a certain narrative in comparison to others, but regardless of their age, culture, socioeconomic background, or a million other factors, people put down their walls and bridges are built when we share stories.

Scripture highlights the importance of the right stories in Revelation chapter twelve when a voice in Heaven declares “They conquered him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” As followers of Jesus, we carry on the tradition of telling powerful, life-changing stories when we share our testimonies. Yet, a testimony is more than a story; it is proof of the change that comes from an encounter with a living God. People hear of the way we encounter the Truth that is God, and they’re given a meaningful explanation for the way Christians interact with the world—they see the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven touching Earth.

The book you’re now reading is filled with more than stories. Each testimony that fills these pages points to a real, living, Divine Person that wants to be a part of your life in ways that you may have never thought were possible. The same Storyteller *that used parables to help farmers see the fields of Heaven wants to use these testimonies to show you what He’s capable of in your life.* As you read, reflect, and pray through each of these devotionals our hope is that

you don't just know that God can u change your life but that you believe in His ability to do so. These are more than stories, and the reality of God is more than any of us could ever hope for or imagine.

Why do you call me good?

Cody Tanner

Mark 10:17-18: "As Jesus started on His way, a man ran up to Him and fell on his knees before Him. "Good teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good-except God alone."

Jesus goes on to remind the man of the commandments that the man says he follows and has followed since he was young. But that isn't the point that Jesus wanted to get across. He then tells the man to sell everything he has and to follow Him. It isn't about following the rulebook or doing the right thing. It is about the "WHY" we do those things, and that reason should be nothing less than our relationship and love for God.

I grew up in a Christian home and always went to church and at one point I even went 4 times a week to three different churches. I did the right things, I read devotionals and even tried to love those who hurt me. Even after all of this I felt lost; I felt alone. Why? Because I was doing these things to make sure that if heaven and hell were real, I would go to the one that wasn't torture. I missed the mark for so many years. I focused on my outward actions rather than my inward feelings for/about God.

As you go on about your week, ask God to highlight areas of your life where you are just trying to do the right things rather than glorifying Him because of the love you have for Him.

Pray with us:

Father God, continue to prune me and shape me to the person you have made me to be. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide my thoughts and actions today and to continue to be a reminder as to the importance of my relationship with you.

Reflections:

- Where in your life have you been doing the right things for the wrong reasons?
- What do you need to sacrifice in order to prioritize your relationship with God?

If God is Light, Why am I Living in Darkness?

Kayla Tobergte

My freshman year of college, I had just rededicated my life to the Lord. Things were going great! I learned what it meant to have a relationship with Him, had a great community around me, and was on the track to lead a life group. It felt like things were finally going well for me for once. Fast forward about six months, and you will find that same, full-of-life girl crippled with anxiety so bad that she can't leave her dorm room. I didn't know where this came from. Every walk to class felt so long and dark. I felt like I was in a dark cloud with no way to get out. I was so confused. I had just committed my life to Jesus, and things were great. "Why am I here? Why am I feeling this way? Am I not a good Christian for feeling this way? Did I do something wrong?" These were all thoughts that ran through my head on an hourly basis. It was by far the darkest place I have ever been in my faith. But, let me tell you, God did not stop loving me or pursuing me.

To this day, I don't know why I went through that horrid year and a half of my life. But I do see the fruit that came from it. God taught me how to trust Him even in the dark moments when I don't hear His voice. He taught me how to see little glimpses of Him through people He surrounded me with. He taught me how to hear His voice amidst all the chaos inside my head. He taught me what it means to rest well in Him and not let anxiety have control in my life. I may have been living in darkness for a long year and a half, but God's light still shined through my life and He used me in such a mighty way.

If this is you today, I want to encourage you that God is still using you, and He still sees you. You are not alone no matter how much you believe it or the enemy is telling you that you are. It's a lie. You are seen, you are heard, and you are loved. Rest in that today.

Pray with us:

Jesus, today is hard. I don't know how I am going to make it through. I am scared. I am worried. I am tired of fighting. I need your strength today. I need your love today. I need your peace today. Quiet these voices in my head that are telling me that you are not close to me. Show me today how you see me and hear me. Even though it's hard to believe right now, I trust that you are near. I trust that you are not leaving me alone in this pain.

Amen.

Reflections:

- Where have you seen God today/this week?
- What lie are you believing about yourself/your circumstances today?

He is always with You

Johnnie Hice

I grew up in a home where religion wasn't really talked about; it was simply something we did on Sunday's... Sometimes. I wore the label Christian, and I knew the name Jesus; if asked what I believed, I would proudly say I was a Christian; if asked why, I had no response.

All of that changed when I was 13. After the tragic death of my father, nothing in life seemed to matter much anymore. I vividly remember standing in my friend's kitchen as she asked me "Johnnie, do you believe in God?" and I nonchalantly responded "no, of course not!" Life felt pointless. I lived my life for the approval of others because if I didn't have friends to hang out with, I would have to be alone with my thoughts. Life was numb.

One day, I got invited to a church service. Now, as you can assume, I wasn't much interested in attending a church service at that point in my life, however, when they mentioned the free snow-cones, you couldn't have kept me away if you tried. I love snow-cones. I never could have guessed that night would change the course of my life forever.

While there, I heard a message about a personal God. Surly this couldn't be the Jesus I had claimed to know all of my life? Was there more to this Christian thing than I had experienced? Afterwards I went to get in line for my free snow-cone, letting myself forget all of the questions that had just been filling my mind, and that was where I met Jordan and Leah. This was the first time in my life I encountered people who acted differently than everyone else. It was as if the Jesus I had just heard spoken about in the other room was standing among us as I spoke with them. It was intoxicating. I wanted to know more. How could I experience the joy they had? How could I stand with such confidence? What was so different about them?

So, I asked. Over the course of the next few weeks, they walked me through what it looked like to have a real relationship with Jesus and how Jesus actually loved me and wanted to be an active part of my life, and during that time, Jesus became real to me. As I started that relationship with Jesus, I began to look through the

previous years of my life. I asked the question "Jesus, were you with me then? Didn't you care?" As I began to ask these questions, my eyes were opened to the reality of His presence throughout my entire life. I could see Jesus with me as a child singing hymns I didn't understand. I saw Jesus weeping with me the night my father died. I felt His presence the day I stood in my friend's kitchen and denied His existence. Jesus was with me in every single situation. He never left me. He will never leave you either.

Pray with us:

"I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence.... I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night- but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you." (Psalm 139:7, 11-12)

Thank you, Jesus, for always being with me. Thank you for seeing me. Thank you for knowing me. Help me to know you more.

Reflections:

- Do you simply wear the label Christian, or do you have a relationship with Jesus? Spend a moment reflecting on this question in prayer with Jesus. Ask Him to show you how to grow your relationship with Him.
- Ask Jesus to show you where He was/is in your life where you have felt alone.

Are You the One?

Bri Brusco

I was born into the church—basically birthed onto the altar. I can't remember a week before high school that I didn't spend Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights there. I was raised bilingual in English and Christianese, and if you're familiar with Veggie Tales, you've seen the epitome of "cool" in the mind of this homeschooler.

I knew a lot *about* Jesus, but at fifteen years old I had to ask Him, "Are you the One? Are you actually the One I need? Are you the One I should be serving?" I was good at going through the motions, but I found myself asking, "are you actually the One this has all been for?"

See in middle school through ninth grade, I experienced a spiritual depression that none of my Bible studies had prepared me for. I knew a lot of truth, but I missed the mark when it came to accepting Jesus' love and loving Him back. I knew He came to save us from our sins, and I had accepted that fact. I believe I was "saved." I had asked for forgiveness of all my wrongs, but I was still oblivious of what it meant to have a relationship with Jesus.

So in this lack, I doubted my salvation and my right to salvation. I didn't understand that foundational piece. It just didn't add up in my head. I would pour over Scripture for hope and comfort, but this goody-two-shoes church girl was too ashamed to turn to anyone else with my doubts, so my spiral of hopelessness continued for over two years.

Over that time, out of habit and the atmosphere my parents and my church created, I still grew in my knowledge of the Bible and of God. This growth all culminated while I was sitting in the second seat of the first row of my tenth-grade English class. We were supposed to be reading *The Turn of the Screw*, but that book was boring to me, and my spirit was in turmoil that morning. So, I prayed. As verbatim as I can remember, it went something like this: "God, I don't want to feel this way anymore. I don't know what I need to do to believe that I'm saved, but even if I'm not—even if I'll never be worth saving—I'll still serve You. I'll live my life for You because I know You're worth it."

You could have heard the chains fall. If I could have watched the spiritual war being fought over me that morning, I would have seen the enemy's white flag propelled into the air. I walked out of class that day to greet a friend with a questioning look on her face. "What happened? You're glowing!" she asked. I didn't have the words in that moment to tell her that I finally realized Jesus is the One! He always has been. He always will be. On that day, my relationship with Jesus began because I finally restored right order in my life. I could have relationship with Jesus because I was ultimately accepting Him for who He is—Lord of my life.

Pray with us:

Jesus. You are the One. I will choose to believe that truth no matter what I'm going through. I will serve you. I surrender my life to You with complete trust that You will take care of me. And, Jesus, please help my faith when these declarations seem like too much.

Reflections:

- Reflect on your relationship with Jesus. When did you meet Him and how are you intentionally pouring into that relationship?
- Where does your treatment of God misalign with who you know Him to be?

How Can a Man Be Born Again?

Eric Tobergte

When one enters the Christian community or even begins to contemplate the existence and deity of Jesus, this is a phrase that they will hear. The longer one continues to participate in the community or journey, the more they will hear this phrase throughout sermons, Bible studies, and conversations. At times, it is used in a call of repentance. To cast off all sin and to live a holy life because they are a new creation. At other times, it is in a call to find identity in the Lordship of Christ because we have been born again in His likeness. Or it is in altar call moments when we are called to give our lives to Jesus and be born again as His followers. The uses of this phrase are not, to my knowledge, incorrect. But people often use this phrase while taking for granted that the listeners know what it means. However, our understanding of what it means to be “born again” is often limited, and this limited understanding can lead to confusion and doubt down the road of our spiritual walk. So, let us explore what it means to be born again.

Nicodemus’ response to Jesus is a humorous one that is filled with exasperation and genuinely seeking explanation. Of course he knows we cannot be born from the womb again, but what else can we do? What he did not know is that he provided us with an illustration. For one to be born, the process involves four steps: conception, pregnancy, birth, and life. In a way, all of us experience these stages in our journey with Jesus as we seek spiritual rebirth and life with Him. Conception is the moment that we first learn about Jesus and consider learning more about Him and potentially following Him. The “pregnancy” stage is the phase of our life where we are learning more about Him, about the hold sin has on our life and really start to think about if we want to give our lives to Jesus. This stage can take years for us to walk through. For me it was a period of two years, others it has been several more years. This period can take time and that's okay. Jesus is growing and preparing us for life with Him during this stage. Next there is the “birth” stage where we cast off our ties to this world and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. The final stage, “life,” is what we do when we

live in this world pursuing Jesus. We watch Him as our Father and try to grow up in His image. To be “born again” is to be the child of God and to trust in Him to lead you and grow you through the stages of life so that we can be like Him. It is a process that we do not know how long will last, or even what stage we are in until we are past it. Yet, once we recognize it as a journey towards God, and not as a finish line to cross, we can rest in the peace that Jesus is drawing us to Him.

My spiritual journey began when I was 18 years old when I was brought into a Chi Alpha community as a college freshman. Then began a two-year journey of growing with Jesus and deciding if I wanted to commit my life to Him. During this time, I had been told I was saved from simply my belief that Jesus was God, but as I look back, I don't know when I truly received salvation. However, I know that I had received it when, during a dark time in my life, I said, “No matter what, I will always come back to Jesus because I don't want to live without Him.” For me that has become the “altar moment” of my journey, the moment when I committed my life to Jesus above all. Now for the last four years of my life, Jesus has been growing me in His image. I've learned to trust that He has guided me through the process, and that I am His child forever.

Pray with us:

Jesus, We thank you for the guiding hand you have had on our lives. Continue to grow us in your image, and to show others your love and grace. We pray that we will continue to grow our foundation and security in you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Reflections:

- What has been your journey with Jesus?
- Where have you seen God's hand direct you in your life?

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Jonathan Mendoza

I was glued to the spot. The combination of humid air and the gravity of this moment made it almost impossible to breathe as I processed the moment. A man I had just met earlier that afternoon was challenging me to take a step of faith and speak in my prayer language. Me. Someone who had never really “felt” the presence of God or “heard” Him speak; I always ran to the altar to find the person who could tell me what God was trying to say. I knew He spoke to others, but that was a privilege I had a hard time believing, truly extended my way. Yet, in this one moment, for the first time in my life, God was challenging me to come to terms with who I said He was. There was no person to speak Truth for me—just the Truth that lived inside of me?

When Jesus addressed the disciples in Luke 9, Peter was probably wrestling with some of these same questions. Growing up in Jewish community, Peter was probably used to the religious leaders and the educated people around him, telling him what to believe about God and (more specifically) the Messiah. He probably thought that the people around him were more qualified to make assertions about the nature of God, but by directly asking the disciples “Who do you say that I am?” Jesus was declaring that everyone who followed Him, had to make up their own mind about who He really was.

It was easy to call Him Messiah for most of my life, but on that day, I was challenged to go beyond head knowledge. Did I actually believe that Jesus was my personal Savior who wanted to invite me into a personal relationship? Did I believe that He died so that I didn’t have to rely on anyone else to tell me His will for my life? Did I believe that He was a Person that I could rest in and that I could trust? As I reflected on these questions, I reached a point where I could do nothing but put my yes on the table and surrender. As I opened my mouth to speak, He took my yes and brought to a place in my spiritual life where I began to understand just how alive and active He truly was, and it completely changed my life.

That's the question that He's asking you this morning. Who do you truly say that He is? How does your life reflect what you actually believe in? You may call Jesus your Savior, but is He also your true source of peace and joy? Is He your Lord? As you spend time with Him today, meditate on His Identity. As He begins to reveal more about who He is, know that this is an invitation for you to go deeper in your relationship. He's inviting you to move from knowing Him as a concept to encountering Him as a Person.

Pray with us:

Jesus, I pray that You would continually show me who you really are. I pray that as we spend time together, I wouldn't just know You but that I would believe in everything Scripture says that You have for me. Help me to understand who You are, because it's through understanding your identity that I can begin to walk in everything You've laid out for me.

Reflections:

- Who have you allowed Jesus to be in your life in the past? Who is He asking you to let Him be in this season of your life?
- Take some time to write down the things you know (head knowledge) about Jesus, and reflect on whether or not you truly believe (heart knowledge) those things about Him.

Do You Love Me?

Kristi Casto

I have always loved love. I have also always loved grand gestures. Through middle school and high school, I baked cakes, made playlists, wrote a song, and made a YouTube video (and probably some other embarrassing things) all to declare my affection for boys I was interested in. In college, I joined Chi Alpha leadership because I loved God. When I was getting ready to graduate, I made the decision to move 2,000 miles from home to serve God. I have always loved love, and I have also always loved grand gestures.

However, I have always struggled with the smaller commitments and everyday gestures. Things like sending a check-in text, speaking encouragement, or setting up a phone call or day to hang out. When it comes to my relationship with Jesus, I always falter in the day-to-day commitments. I struggle to spend time in my Bible, pray daily, fast regularly, etc.

While big gestures aren't wrong or bad, they aren't enough to sustain a healthy relationship. If I always talked about how much I loved my best friend, but I only ever sent her a present in the mail once a year, people might start to wonder how much I actually cared about her. On the other hand, if I didn't really talk to people about how much I loved my best friend, but I was always spending time with her, people would be able to tell how much I cared about her.

I've come to realize that the same is true of my relationship with God. I can talk about my love for God all the time, but if I never talk to Him or spend time with Him, then there's no substance to my words. It's just idle chatter.

Love isn't an object, but rather an action. Your actions will inevitably reveal where your love really lies.

Pray with us:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for being the greatest example of love-- for giving your one and only Son, so that I might have a relationship with you. Your goodness and your kindness knows no bounds. Today, I commit myself to you, not just in the things that are easy or exciting, but the hard things and the mundane as well. Reveal the areas of my life and heart that I haven't given over to you. Starting today, I will love you with my actions as well as my words. I will follow the example Jesus set before me, and I will love the LORD my God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my strength (Matthew 22:37). I pray these things in your holy name. Amen.

Reflections:

- Take some time to examine your heart. If Jesus asked you, "Do you love me?" how would you respond?
- Is your answer to the first question reflected in the choices you make in your day-to-day life?

This Is a Hard Teaching. Who Can Accept It?

Tj Schaefer

Not me. I'm not okay with that. You're telling me that my main and sole purpose is to glorify God and love Him forever? Psh... I mean yeah, Matthew 6:33 does say to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" but like, that doesn't necessarily mean that my sole purpose is fixated on God and not myself.

I paused my sermon I was listening to by Matt Chandler, a superb preacher, and stood in the middle of my dorm room. The feeling I was experiencing was what I imagined it would feel like to find out as an adult that I was adopted. Like Fresh Prince of Bel-air, my life got flipped, turned upside-down. I was upset. This life couldn't possibly revolve around God. There is so much more to life. I just kept staring at my wall across the room with my adventure time poster as my sparse yet homey wall decor. "This isn't real; why haven't I ever heard this before?" I asked myself. I stormed around my room like an angsty teenager (because I was 21, which was close enough still). I finally came to my senses and began this conversation with God about all these hard truth shenanigans. I knew deep within myself, though, that what Pastor Matt Chandler had spoken indeed was the truth. My flesh, on the other hand, couldn't stand the idea that the world didn't revolve around my life and interests.

Now at this point, I planned on addressing those of you who haven't felt this moment I have described. But then I realized, if you haven't yet felt it, then you must be now. (If that is you, take some time right now to talk with God about it. You need the conversation.) Isn't this teaching hard though? Our chief end-goal in this life is to glorify God in loving and living for Him. If that isn't a bit of a flesh-jerker, then you're a robot. That is hard for every human to accept because we crave to be the center of our world. It's pretty offensive at first. It's like me walking into your birthday party while everyone is watching you open gifts and announcing "This day isn't about you!" I bet you're (not even) wondering how the rest of my conversation with God went that night. Well, I took out my purple expo marker, walked up to my massive mirror door to my closet and wrote

“Matthew 6:33- But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.” Since that day, surrender has been a daily discipline and fight. It’s a choice to fix our eyes on God, but when we get to see who God truly is, I wonder why we willingly choose to look away afterward. Hearing our purpose in life fulfills us and gives us direction. It becomes freeing to know that we are living for someone bigger than ourselves. Have you had a chance to believe that yet? The mission is bigger than you, and that should be relieving and fulfilling.

Pray this breath prayer with us:

I choose to seek you first today.

Reflections:

- Why was/is this teaching hard for you to accept?
- What are you willing to de-prioritize to seek God’s kingdom and righteousness first?

Are We Out of the Woods Yet?

Ally Sarring

I have a love-hate relationship with wooded areas. I enjoy hiking —the fresh air, the views, the sunshine peeking through the trees, the sound of nature just doing its thing. It's beautiful. But as much as I love these things, I still have one great fear about the woods— never finding my way back out.

The fear of getting lost in the woods always grows deeper as I continue to pass tree after tree for what seems like a million miles. As my surroundings start to look the same with every twist and turn, things start to look chaotic, confusing, uncertain. As I continue to hike the trail, I can't help but think to my myself, "I hope I'm not lost. Will I safely get out of the woods?"

December 2017 until about September 2020, I was felt lost in what seemed to be the largest woods. It was one of the darkest seasons of my life, one that I never thought I would find my way out of. My mental health tanked, I lost some important relationships, I was experiencing intense grief from my grandma's passing, and anxiety/depression literally beat up my body (Did you know that emotional pain can give you physical pain, crazy stuff huh?). As I kept walking the trail of life, I could see through the trees that the light of day was quickly slipping away to darkness. As I felt more and more pressed into the dark, I began to question God's purpose for this season. I was hopeless.

I felt like David in ***Psalm 18:4-5... "The cords of death entangled me; The torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; The snares of death confronted me."***

Friends, have you ever felt like this before? Have you experienced or are you currently experiencing something that is totally punching you in the face? Does it have you second-guessing what you have thought about God? Does it have you begging Him to pull you out of what feels like getting lost in a dark woods? I want to pause here and share an excerpt from one of my favorite authors of all time, Hannah Brencher...

"When you get pressed into the dark, you figure out what you really think about God...I think at some points through [hard seasons] that maybe I was praying the wrong prayers. Maybe the prayer isn't, 'God, take this away from me.' Maybe it's, 'God, help me move through this.' Avoiding something and moving through something are two very different things. Maybe that meant I would get beat up a little in the process. I would take some hits. [But] maybe life isn't about avoiding the bruises, it's about collecting the scars to prove we showed up for it. We think darkness like this could only be a punishment, but maybe it's the start of building something new. I know beautiful things are born out of the dark all the time."

During this season, I can't tell you how many times I approached God and repeatedly asked Him to take all this away from me. BUT it wasn't until I started crying out to God asking Him to instead help me move through this, that I began to feel hopeful I would eventually make it of the woods.

David cries out in a similar manner, as we continue in ***Psalm 18:6...*** ***"In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; My cry came before him, into his ears."***

David essentially is saying, "God help me move through this! Help me find my way out of the woods!"

Take a moment and process what could look different in a situation or a season if you switched your prayer/perspective from "God, take this away from me!" to "God, help me move through this!"

Look then at what happens after David calls out to God in ***Psalm 18:16-19...*** ***"He reached down from on high and took hold of me; He drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, From my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, But the Lord was my support. He brought me out into a spacious place; He rescued me because he delighted in me."***

I have read Psalm 18 over and over again during the last three years. God would always remind me that He moves when we call out to Him from the depths of the woods. He doesn't ignore us, but instead He takes action. He come and finds us, lost in a sea of trees with daylight slipping away, and helps us move through to the other side.

God paints an image of Himself of bringing us out into a spacious place. That image brought me hope in the middle of the chaos and pain— that no matter how lost I felt in the woods, I knew God would be faithful to help me move through to a wide, open place.

As I hung on to that promise, I watched God do just that. God didn't pull me out of a difficult season, but instead chose to pull me through—out of the woods into a spacious place. I am so thankful that He chose to do it that way instead. Because as Brencher mentioned, beautiful things are born in the dark.

That dark season, birthed some beautiful things in me. It helped me to trust God at a deeper level. Even in the middle of the woods, I genuinely felt the closest to Him that I have ever felt in my entire life.

Take a moment to reflect on some of the good things that God has been developing in you— even during the midst of something difficult.

So remember as you go about your week that if you feel like you are in the middle of the woods, God is faithful to move you through to a spacious place.

Pray with us:

Jesus thank you for seeing and hearing me in the middle of the woods. Help me to remember that you take action when I cry out to you. I pray that when you don't remove me from a situation, that I remember that you will be faithful to help me move through it instead.