## Adrielle Lewis

## My life before Christ...

I grew up around the church but never understood what it meant to have a relationship with Jesus. I viewed church as a hobby and a "good look" to have over your family's name.

## How I realized I needed Christ and accepted Him as my Savior...

Growing up, I was conscious about God, but never gave Him the time of day. When I was in middle school, I began to struggle with my mental health. This continued on into high school, and I eventually reached the point where I chose not to believe in God or have anything to do with church. My thought process was, "If God is so good, how could He let all of these bad things happen to me?" After countless failed attempts of filling the void in my life, I decided to return to church. I was hopeless, and this was seemingly my last chance at finding some sort of hope. At first, I did not want to be there, but slowly I continued to attend services. I desired to learn more. Months alter at a Good Friday service, I realized that I was a sinner in need of a Savior, and asked Jesus to come into my life.

## My life since receiving Christ...

I have been saved for three years now. I spent the first two years living in fear, scared to ask questions, and scared that I was not loved enough by God to go to Heaven. I felt the need to prove myself to God and had not fully surrendered. Thankfully, this past year spent at the Word of Life Bible Institute has been a time of growth and closeness to God. I realized for the very first time that God can do so much more with my surrender than I can with my control. It hasn't always been easy, but my joy is no longer based on my circumstances. I now know that my life has purpose and that the Lord has a plan for me. I have confidence that even when I am unfaithful, God remains faithful to me. I have found true freedom in turning my eyes away from my circumstances and onto the One who holds them.