

Kristine Snyder

### **My life before Christ...**

From as far back as I can remember, I've always loved serving God. I grew up as a Jehovah's Witness. I was even baptized as one at the age of 15. I knew I wanted to live for God . But later, during college years, I strayed and fell away from God. In 2009 my father passed away and I was shunned by the congregation just a few months after. It was devastating. The next few years were the darkest ones. I felt so lost and separated from God. Then I moved away from everything and everyone I knew, got married, and had 2 kids and started to feel like my life was slowly coming back together. But I still felt a void. I knew I wanted a relationship with God again so I started to study God's word again and started researching outside of JW literature. Then I realized more and more that everything I had been brought up to believe were false teachings. That was also devastating. I was so afraid to trust anything after that, afraid I'd be wrong again. I'd attend church occasionally because deep down I wanted so desperately to feel God's presence with me again but still felt so lost. I started to pray regularly again asking for God's direction and to guide me on what to believe, how he wanted me to serve him, etc.

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

A few months ago I had been listening to a talk about salvation and the very next day I had gone to a church where they gave pretty much the same sermon as I had been listening to using the same scriptures. Towards the end of it, the pastor mentioned how we can feel separated from God and it felt like He was speaking to me through the pastor. And even though I still had so many questions about things like what doctrines to believe in, I knew I didn't want to be separated from God anymore and that I needed him, so I went up and prayed with one of the pastors there and I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior that day.

### **My life since receiving Christ...**

I felt such peace afterwards and closer than I've ever felt to God. And even though I have days where I fall short or have doubts or get anxious about life, and I don't know when or how God will lead me, I realize that accepting him truly means trusting him to lead all aspects of my life.