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Katelyn Williamson Testimony

I had somewhat of a “normal” upbringing. I grew up in church. My family went every Sunday, and I was saved at the age of 8 during a chapel at my school. We had some troubles while I was growing up, and my parents divorced when I was 10. I was a huge daddy’s girl, but he was never around. He was always out “at work” and I would sit by the window waiting for him to come home. At the time, I did not understand why they had divorced, but my tiny little brain decided that he didn’t love me or my siblings anymore. I tried so hard to be a daughter he would love, but it never worked. He was emotionally not there and on the weekends that we were at his house, all he did was yell and criticize us. This had been a lot for me, and I dealt with strong feelings of sadness, grief, and the overall feeling that I wasn’t enough to keep my family together. I carried it all by myself. I never talked to anyone about it in fear that they wouldn’t understand or, worse, understand why he left. Even through this, I had the head knowledge that I had to trust in Jesus for strength. I was baptized at the age of 11 on a Sunday morning at the church we had been attending, and I was struggling with how to truly give Him my life. It took me a while to figure it out, but around the age of 15, I grew the relationship with my mom and my friends at school, and slowly, God reminded me that one person cannot have the power over my life: that’s God’s job. Even though we were a “Christian” family, I was convicted that my life wasn’t fully living for God. My mom remarried to an amazing godly man, and while the change was hard, we started falling into a routine that felt comfortable. We moved to a Christian school, and this made a complete difference in my life. I was a junior in high school, and after a couple of months, I started dating this boy from my class. This was my first relationship, and after we had broken up, I found myself with the same thoughts from years ago that said I wasn’t good enough to be someone worth fighting for. It was a never-ending spiral that led me to believe that I could control how other people acted if I was “nice enough” or “fun enough.” Around 3 months after the breakup, my family started going to Lighthouse. One of my friends was going there, and she invited me to go. I absolutely

loved it, and my whole family started going every Sunday. It was my mom who really pushed this, because she wanted her family to grow deeper with Jesus. She's probably the whole reason I'm here with this story because without her constant God-filled wisdom, I would be on a much darker path. She encouraged me to go to the college group, make friends with the girls my age, and just get out of the small circle that I was in. I didn't have many friends, and all I did was go to work and school. So, I listened. I went to as many events as I could, getting involved with 242, life groups, and hanging out with my new friends. Our old church only had Sunday morning service, but nothing that connected its members throughout the week. With Lighthouse, I felt like I didn't have enough time to do everything I wanted. Which was a great problem to have because it stopped me from focusing on the lingering hurt I was feeling. Throughout the past few months of coming to Lighthouse, God has taught me that my actions *won't* ever be enough for someone's love, but that's kind of the whole point. Jesus took my place on the cross because I was not worthy of Heaven. Satan uses the world to make us feel like we won't ever be enough, and that's supposed to make us turn away from God, but it only turned me closer to God. I'm still not perfect, nor will I ever be. I can't be in control because I don't know what I'm doing, but I can trust in the one who does. I've been focusing on my relationship with the people around me, like my family, friends, and the people I go to school and work with. Dating and relationships genuinely feel like the most time consuming, stressful thing right now, and I think that's because I'm right where God wants me. Life is a little boring, but I would rather that, than the constant strain of trying to be "enough" for a person who doesn't even know what "enough" is. I am truly blessed by God to have lived a life that has brought me closer to Him. Not because it was all sunshine and rainbows, but because the trials have shown that I don't have to have it all together to be loved. Jesus loved AND died for me fully knowing that I would never be or do enough to repay Him, but He did it anyways, and His love is all I need to be content in this crazy world.