

**Dear Samantha,**

I hope this letter finds you feeling deeply loved and supported because you truly are. I've been reflecting on the challenges you've been facing, especially with family and church relationships, and I want you to know how much I admire your strength and faith. Even in the midst of pain or misunderstanding, I see your heart for God, and I believe He's working through you in ways that are beautiful and transformative.

When I think about your journey, I'm reminded of **Joseph** in the Bible. His story speaks directly to some of the struggles you've experienced. Joseph's family was no stranger to dysfunction. They had a history of harsh and even violent responses to conflict—like when his brothers, Simeon and Levi, attacked and killed an entire group of people in Genesis 34. This showed a pattern of cutting others off, often in extreme ways, rather than seeking reconciliation or understanding.

Joseph himself was a victim of this pattern when his brothers sold him into slavery. Yet, instead of continuing the cycle of hurt, Joseph chose forgiveness. When he was reunited with his brothers, he said:

**"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives"** (Genesis 50:20).

Joseph's story reminds us that **even in the most difficult situations, God can bring redemption**. By choosing love and forgiveness, Joseph broke free from his family's destructive patterns and became a source of healing and restoration. In the same way, I believe that through God's grace, you can be a light of love and reconciliation, breaking free from the cycles of disconnection you've witnessed.

Jesus calls us to this higher way in Matthew 5:44: **"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."**

Forgiveness is a powerful act of faith—it doesn't mean ignoring the pain or excusing hurtful actions, but it allows us to release bitterness and embrace the peace of Christ.

As I've watched you navigate these challenges, I've also thought about the unique gifts God has given you. One of those gifts is your faith. Even though it may feel uncomfortable at times, **sharing your faith can be a way of testifying to Christ's work in your life** and inviting others to experience His love. Jesus reminds us in

Matthew 28:19-20 of our calling:

**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

This doesn't mean you have to be someone you're not. Sharing your faith can be as simple as speaking about how Christ has moved in your life, offering a word of encouragement rooted in Scripture, or reminding others of Jesus' commandments to love, forgive, and be kind. In contexts like Sunday school or personal conversations, these moments can feel natural and meaningful. They're opportunities not just to disciple others but to deepen your own connection with Christ and with the body of believers.

Paul writes in Romans 10:9-10:

**"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."**

Speaking up about Jesus isn't about perfection—it's about being willing to let your faith shine through your words and actions. It's a way of affirming your place in the body of Christ and letting others see His love through you.

I know it can feel daunting, especially if you're unsure how others will respond. But remember, **you're not alone in this**. Jesus Himself promises in Luke 12:12:

**"The Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."**

You don't have to have all the answers; you just have to be open to letting God use you. Even a small word or testimony can plant seeds of faith in others.

Finally, I want to remind you of how deeply God loves and values you. You are not bound by the patterns of the past. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17:

**"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"**

You are a new creation, capable of sharing love, forgiveness, and truth in ways that reflect God's heart. And as you take these steps—whether it's speaking up about Jesus, choosing forgiveness, or praying for those who've hurt you—know that God is with you every step of the way.

You are such a gift to me and to our family, and I see the light of Christ shining through you. I'm

here to support you as you continue this journey,  
and I'm excited to see how God will use your  
unique gifts to bring love and healing to those  
around you.

With all my love and support,  
Your Husband, Andrii