

Don't Let Anyone Look Down on You Because You Are Young

Becky Guthrie, January 13, 2007

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12



God is so faithful to our family. He has led us through many stages of life, from a young couple with a baby to a family of four disciples. Brad and I began coming to the Detroit Church of Christ about 17 years ago. We studied the Bible and gave our lives over to Christ within weeks of each other. We took our kids along with us everywhere, first Katie, who started attending the church's children's ministry when she was less than two months old. A few years later, Sandy was born. I remember bringing her home from the hospital and finding a large group gathered in our garage. There was a baptism going on at her

homecoming.

Over the years, growing up in the church, we shared her home with disciples. People frequently stayed in our spare room, sometimes for months on end. Both Katie and Sandy became used to our house being a meeting place for house church, midweek services, bible talks, and discipling [or spiritual coaching] times. They came to every worship service, Sunday and midweek, conferences and special events. Katie and Sandy were frequently kept out past their bedtime, but still had to get up early every Sunday, even when they wanted to sleep in. It felt like we asked our kids to do a lot for the Kingdom.

Finally, at eight years old, it was time for Sandy to go to "R" camp. She went as guest and many disciples served her. Although her first camp experience wasn't the best, as she suffered from headaches in the heat, she looked forward to going every year. Sandy's relationships with kids from

other parts of the country always grew deeply during camp and she looked forward to going back to rekindle them every year.

Two years ago when Katie was baptized, it became difficult for Sandy to feel connected to the rest of the family. She was the youngest and the only non-disciple. Last summer, when she went to teen camp, Sandy gained conviction about the importance of studying the Bible and she began to participate in character Studies with Christy Krawczyk. Sandy's heart started to grow and change, but she was not quite ready to give her life over to Christ. Unfortunately, Christy and her husband, Kevin, had to move out of town last fall for him to start a new job. It is often hard to build relationships with people and suddenly to see them go, but that didn't Sandy from studying the Bible again when she was ready. Sandy began studying the Bible again with April Wright and Andrea Collins a couple of months ago. Soon after, she was ready to enter the kingdom and was baptized on December 31, 2006.



My family is very thankful to April, Andrea, Christy, and the teen ministry for helping Sandy to become a disciple. Now, Sandy shares her new convictions in our family times. She can disciple us just as we have disciplined her over the years. She is the youngest, but that doesn't mean that she's the weakest. The four of us are now all brother and sisters in Christ as well as being a family.

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