



# *Lydia Stroul*

## Why Follow Jesus?

By following Jesus and his teachings, I've found life to be a lot easier and less complicated. In my pre-school years, I remember being excited to come to Sunday school and see all of my friends. I wasn't very interested in the lessons and learning about Jesus. I was more interested in what time I could leave and all the pretty colors around the room, since I had the attention span of a goldfish. As time went by, I sort of started to take an interest in what the teachers were saying. Then I missed my kindergarten year with being in the hospital and at home.

My 1st through 4th grade years went by very quickly. I was being taught the importance of following Jesus, and believing he was our lord and savior, the miracles he could perform, and how he gave himself so that we could be forgiven. These ideas didn't all add up to me, but I wasn't worried. It was still a social time, at least in my head. The few years after that gave me a chance to put the pieces together and discover my talents and idiosyncrasies as my perspective widened and I took an interest in the world.

It seems like it hasn't been 3 years since our class, Katy, AJ, Alexa, and I, started our confirmation classes together. Other people have come into our class, like Sam who is being confirmed with us, and others have gone since. I feel privileged to be up here alongside my classmates and my friends and in front of the congregation that has helped and encouraged me through the hard times, tolerated me, and shown me the way for the last 15 years.

Last, but not least, I want to thank this congregation for being supportive, my parents for dragging me to class (I was a pain, I know), and Pastor Scott for being an awesome mentor and teacher.

I made a photo collection of the church, including many of the rooms, the people, and the services that have meant a lot to me and made a difference in my upbringing as a young Christian. Each of these places and events has a special meaning to me and were influential in my upbringing.