

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus
Philippians 4:6-7

Being a Christian is very important to me. I am very grateful for being raised in the church. I remember from a very young age the lessons that I learned attending a Lutheran school and church. I have learned lessons about being grateful for all I have, being kind, treating others how I want to be treated and forgiving others as God forgives me.

A good example of being grateful is the experience I've had with PADS. Seeing our church members come together to help those in need has given me a feeling of gratefulness. Being able to help young children and their parents makes me realize how lucky I am. This experience always reminded me of how Jesus gave of himself and put others first.

Another lesson I've learned from my years of being a Christian is to treat others with kindness. I try to apply this lesson to the things I do every day. Whether it's working with classmates, teachers, my sisters or sports teammates, I find that kindness brings out the best in everyone. My experience has taught me that being kind can mean more to others than you can imagine. Even small gestures can make someone's day. The scriptures teach us that Jesus was always kind and taught his followers to spread kindness to all people.

Treating others how I would like to be treated is something else I've learned as a Christian. I've had experiences of others not treating me well which shows me that it's important to treat others with respect. I see how my mom interacts with others, always showing respect and love for other people. Jesus set a great example of treating others by sharing everything that he had and always helping others as much as he could.

Finally, forgiveness is the most important lesson of them all. I try to forgive everyone because God has shown me

that people make mistakes (just like me) and everyone deserves to be forgiven. An example of forgiveness was when Jesus was hung on the cross and he forgave the people that put him there. Even though what they did was wrong, he understood that they made a mistake and needed to be forgiven. Jesus set a great example for me to follow.

In conclusion, throughout my years of being a Christian, I have learned that it is very important to be grateful for what I have, show kindness, treat others how I want to be treated and to forgive I hope to share these lessons with all that I come in contact with.

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