


Heaven meets
Earth like an
Unforeseen
Kiss

Carta a Dios



Letter to God

Lord,
I think in a more abstract sense I have always known that you are here and you are good. Coming to believe in you more actively was strange at first but not entirely difficult because I guess in some sense I always had. But coming into relation with you feels like a battle. I am still the little girl who looks up at my father, smiles and runs away. Fiercly independent confident in my own ability, and hesitant to trust another. Lord all of my life I have been taught to believe in myself, but I see now the flaws in that. Lord I cannot be both my own master and a servant to you. Break my need for control Lord my desire for independence. Heal my scars of hurt Lord my inability to completly trust another. Lord I see that I have been taught wrongly. I cannot have you and also my dreams. I cannot have you and also my drive. Lord I cannot have you and also my life. So take it Lord, no longer do I run from you in fear. No longer do

I challenge you with skepticism. I will probably continue to fight for how hard it is to finally let go of something which for so long you have clung to so tightly. Who am I to think I know myself better than my creator. Who am I to think that I can outwit an omniscient God. Lord I believe in your power to transform my life. No longer will I run from the things that I fear, instead I approach them arms up in surrender trembling but aware that I am always held by your love. Break what I have created Lord and build up your kingdom in me. For everything, in everything

I am yours

Mariya Garland

YWAM
9/25/15

Heaven meets earth like an unforeseen kiss. This verse in David Crowder's song "How he loves" has always haunted me, so I decided to make it my theme for my journal. A kiss is something so intimate, so binding. I love the picture of our father, the perfect God of all of the heavens reaching down to kiss us, his broken creation, uniting himself with us in all of our brokenness because that is how he loves. The verse reminds me of a quote in The Great Gatsby which reads "He knew that when he kissed this girl and forever wed his unutterable visions to her perishable breath, his mind would never romp again like the mind of God."

My Life in Conversations

"It's a girl"... "Meet your brother"... "She has a cleft"... "We're moving from Boulder"... "She'll make friends when she is older"... "We'll take bone from your hip"... "You got into Liberty"... "I'm Mr. Dybdahl"... "I'm going to go to youth group"... "The service starts now"... "Welcome Him into your heart"... "She's gone"... "I can only imagine"... "Let's do it"... "In the name of the father, Son and Holy Spirit"... "They're at the Police station"... "I'll take a copy of"

Hearing God's Voice

Week One: 9/23-9/25 Jeff Heringshaw

Key Point: In order to hear God we have to believe God wants to talk to us and be willing to listen and act in responce

Known:

- I have given God parts of my life, but He wants all of me
- Saying yes to God means giving up my own control over my life → This for me is the hardest part
- I came to DTS because I want a relationship with God... I want to believe that God is good
- We need a child-like faith in order to hear God
- God does not speak with us in order to condem us He speaks with us to share His love for us.
  - Im often my worst condemer
  - Romans 8:1
- God is jealous for me
  - his jealousy stems from love
- Finding Gods direction for my life depends on me accepting his love for me

- When I hear the Lord speak I must respond with faith
- God wants us to live in the moment
  - I have to surrender my fear of the future to Him
- I can know the right words but if my actions don't reflect them they mean nothing
  - Matthew 7:21-23

New

- My beliefs about God and my beliefs about myself determine my ability to hear him
- Religous v. Relational Prayer
  - When we have a relationship with God we communicate with him and expect him to respond
  - Not a one-sided conversation
- I don't hear God because I don't trust Him and His goodness
- When we are in a relationship with God we begin to understand His heart and ask for things in accordance with His will
- There are three categories of

things God wants to speak to us about
His love for me → 80%
His Plans for me → 10%
My ministry to others → 10%

- Often we are not listening for what God wants to speak to us about
- The correct responce to conviction thrug the Holy Spirit is confesion and responce according to God's will
- The Holy Spirit has been given to all of us so that we may represent God on Earth
- God blesses us so we may bless others
- Lordship means that we are servants to God

Truth

- Prayer is an attitude of my heart
  - I must be tuned in with God
- God wants to speak to me and I want to remove all barriers
- God doesns just tolerate me He is passionatley pursuing me
- "Here I am Lord Speak for your

servant listens"
- God is jelous for me
- I must seek Jesus for relationship not simply Salvation
- The safest place I can be is in the hands of God

Personal Application
- My challenges in hearing God's voice

Lies
- God doesn't fit into my realistic worldview
- I feel Unworthy
- I don't feel like I have had enough experience with God to trust/ understand him
- My family Culture is one of disbelief
- I want control

- What God gives me to guide me
  - Scripture
  - Wise Counsel
  - Holy Spirit
  - Circumstances
  - Does this glorify God

"Is this really God?"

- What do I have to give up to follow Him
  - money
  - family
  - safety
  - control

- Comfort
- future
- pride/dignity
- life

• Why do I think I know myself better than my creator
• How could my plan for my life be better than His?

Check in: 5 words to describe my week

Dream-Like Lonely
Incomprehensible
Respite Challenging

Dear Mariya!

I enjoy talking to you Today monday at lunch!

I Believe very strongly that you are here for a reason...

Whatever that is; I'm very excited to see it develop and to watch you find out!

I also Believe this time is a Time of Surrender and I see you allready doing that; by obeying his word, leaving everything you are Just too; Family, Comfort etc. But you will see that through your obedience to God you will find Freedom...

May God Bless you Mariya!

Sincerly

Rebeca


James
4:7-17

Pursuing Right Relationships

Week Two: 9/23 - 10/2 Jeff Herringshaw

Key Point: Love is choosing to give the highest good to God, to others, and to myself.

Known: Right relationships serve to unite the body of Christ and demonstrate His love to non-believers.

I've always believed that our love for God should manifest itself in the way we treat other people. It seems like all christians should be united by our ~~desire~~ shared love for ~~our~~ God, yet there are always warring factions within the body. Our arrogance and ignorance leads us to believe that the way in which we seek and serve God is the only right way. I too struggle with this, finding that it is hard for me to find empathy ~~for~~ and tolerance for the people with whom I share the most. However, as I personally and we as a body truly learn how to love God we also come to be able to love eachother. We are the body of Christ, His hands and feet on this Earth, so our treatment of others should demonstrate His intense love for them.

Now: [illegible]

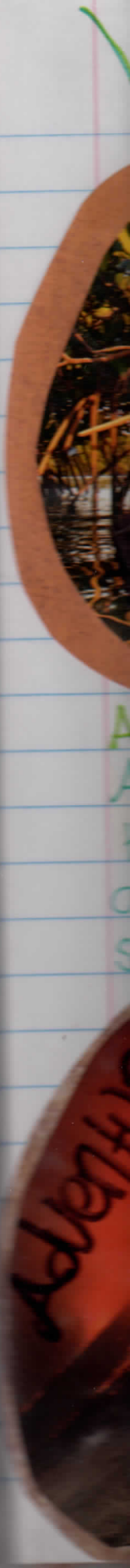
If we all lived lifestyles of love we would have no need for rules, God wants us to embrace boundaries in our own hearts.

I have always liked rules. I thrive in situations that have a lot of external control, but God wants me to do more than simply follow biblical guidlines for my life. Serving God is a transformation of my heart, not simply a changing of my behavior. In simply following rules will I run the risk of become legalistic, living in obidence to God but not an obidence steaming from love. I must internalize what God wants me to know about His love and in doing so create boundaries for my heart, boundaries that will help me to continue to chose the highest good for God, myself, and others even when I don't have external guideline as to what that is.

Truth: God calls us to love sacrifically without expecting anything in return. Love always hopes for something good in return. I love those who I think will love me in return. I give of myself with the expectation of someone giving in return. But God calls us to ~~see~~ a higher kind of love. The sacrifical love he demonstrated by his love for us the people who daily curse and forsake Him, the people who nailed His one and only Son to a cross. We are called to love our enemies, but we have also been taught ~~tha~~ that loving someone should feel good these two things do not line up. Sacrifical love is painful, its hard to give yourself repeatidly ~~only to be~~ and only to feel taken advantage of. It's easy to preach sacrificial love, but everytime I have practiced it I have come out feeling disheartened. With each time I am hurt I find it harder and harder to love others. I understand our call to sacrifical love, but I dont understand how to keep a heart for God and others when it is constantly broken.

Personal Application: "God what do you want to teach me in this"

I have been trying to pray this prayer everytime I am in a difficult with another person. People are hard to love and when we come to the end of our own love we must call out to the Holy Spirit to help us love. When I am in difficult situtions I get frusterated and focus on the other person and what they are doing wrong thus missing an opportunity to go one step farther in understending and practicing Gods love. Being surrounded by people I am unfamiliar with puts me in many uncomfortable situations but instead of getting frusterated and blaming others I am trying to grow in my understanding of Gods love and trust in the Holy Spirit to help guide me in demonstrating this kind of love to others.



Words of the Week



Roots: A regonition where I come from defines who I am

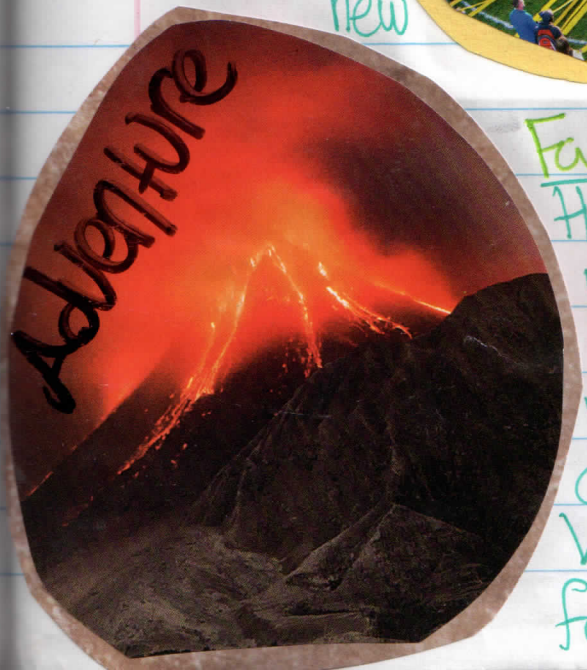


Opportunity: A chance to start again living for and with God

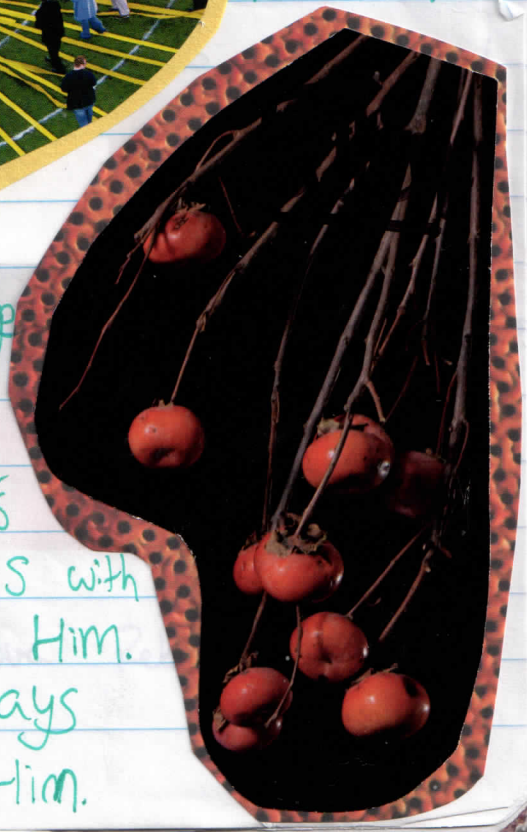
Connection: An openess to relationships with others, a willingness to be here.



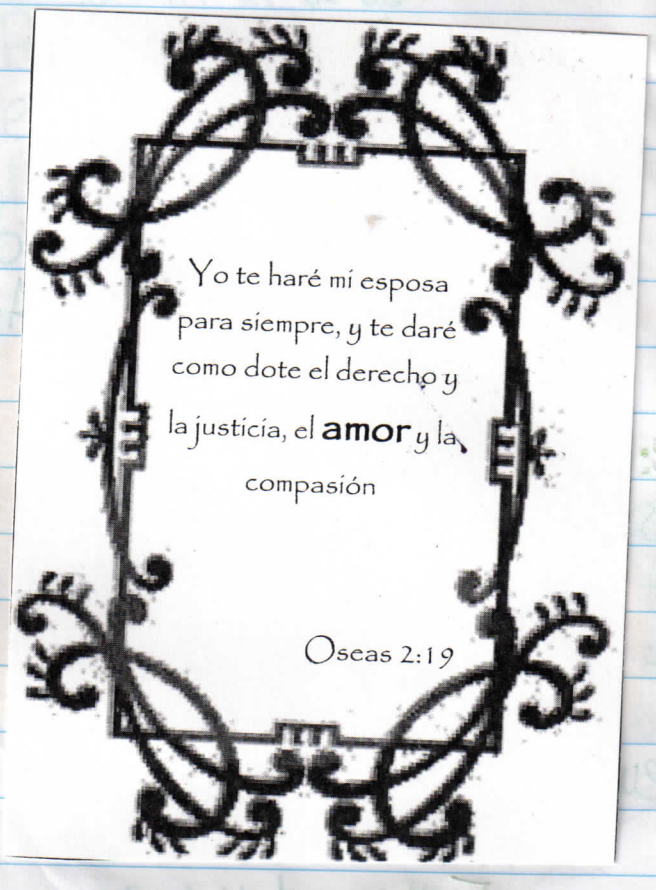
Adventure: A readiness to go out and experience something new



Fallen: Acknowledge that we have no ability to live out God's vision for us with out help from Him. We will always fail without Him.



Dios me dío
este verso para
ti
Angélica





Dear Mariya!

I been Tninking about you and wondering how are you doing?

all what I can say is that God wants you to enjoy this time with Him.

Its a time to find who you really are on Him,

allow God to speak to you and Show you His ways to new Adventures...



1 John 3:16

Hereby know we love, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

as I think and pray for you Butterflies comes to my mind I Think Butterflies are Beautiful just as you are Beautiful...

Love Rebeca

Lord, I cry out to You, hear my quiet call
I am lost, far from you, exhausted, frustrated, confused

Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I

You have power I can't imagine and a plan
I don't understand. I trust in You Lord as
You have never failed. Answer my cry
take me in your arms, forgive me for my doubts
Give me rest in your love and strength

Let me take refuge under the shelter of Your Wings

Your promise of life endures for those who
trust in You. Lord, I trust in You. Take my
life Lord and make it Yours. Let me live in
steadfast love and faithfulness, forever trusting
in your Plan and submitting to your control
Forgive my unfaithfulness and redeem my life, Lord

So will I Sing Praise

than I

You have power I can't imagine and a plan I don't understand. I trust in You Lord as You have never failed. Answer my cry take me in your arms, forgive me for my doubts Give me rest in your love and strength

Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings

Your promise of life endures for those who trust in you. Lord, I trust in you. Take my life Lord and make it yours. Let me live in steadfast love and faithfulness, forever trusting in your plan and submitting to your control Forgive my unfaithfulness and redeem my life, Lord

So will I sing praise to your name Forever

Psalm 61

The Nature and Character Of God

Week Three: 10/5 - 10/9 Edgar

Key Point: We must constantly examine our worldview and our actions to ensure they line up with God's truth and God's desires

Known:

- We each create our own truth and our own images of God → But do they line up with those presented in His word
- The Bible should be the foundation of my truth
- God's law is in everyone's heart (conscience)
- Our essence tells us that the Bible is true
- We find peace in the truth of the Word of God
- It is not enough to simply believe God's truth We must live it and share it
- We are called to be sincere and intimate with God
- We are simply humble messengers of the truth
- I can't have a relationship with God if I don't open up my soul and let Him in

God is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, and eternal
- As we have more experience and are exposed to the world our beliefs/values are challenged and we can change
- I am called to live for God's truth not my own

New:
- The Bible was not written to prove the existance of God → We were created to prove the existance of God
- The Bible shows Gods charecter, our own observations demonstrate His nature
- We prove that God exists, we are called to show that He exists
- God is both transcendent and imminent
- We feel conviction when our hearts and minds align for God
- Complacent / Relative Faith: I have the truth but Im not going to share it with another
- The Bible isn't relevent/applicable if I don't view it through the lens of my own experience
- My faith should be experiential, relational, and intellectual
- Elohem is the plural form of Man in hebrew

- We cannot pursue holiness, rather it is given to us through God if we live right with Him
- We must first look at God than compare ourselves with Him
- In order to have moral attributes God must have charecter
- Natural Attribute: Something we have, Moral Attribute: Something we create
- Moral attributes are constant decision
- Gods Moral attributes
  1. love: Most important
  2. holiness
  3. righteousness
  4. Benevolence
  5. Wisdom
  6. Constentcy
  7. Fidelity

Truth:

- We exist to demonstrate Gods moral attribute on earth → We must make the constent daily decision to live right
- We cannot love the others in the way we are called without accepting Gods love for us
- We want People to discover God according

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Truth:

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- We cannot love ~~the~~ others in the way we are called without accepting Gods love for us
- We want People to discover God according

to their own understanding
- More truth = More understanding
- Everyon Sees God and His truth in differen' ways
- The truth Will set you free
  - If my beliefs bond me they dont align with God
- I cant only accept the aspects of Christians that make sense to me.
- With one ~~theological truth~~ Ultimate truth there can exist multiple theological conceptions

In Essentials: Unity
In Nonessentials: Liberty
In all things: Love

- Our View of God should be defined by our experiences and refined by our theology

Personal Application:

- Memorize Romans 12:1-2 and refer back to it constantly
- Ask myself: Do I use love as an excuse for my unwillingness to Share my faith
- Recognize the power my upbringing has on my worldview and work to break free the beliefs that dont align with His truth


Gratitude
Presence
Discipline
Peace
Rest

Dear Mariya!

I enjoy our time in our one and one! I hope you did too !! It's amazing to discover day by day God's Love for us... allow God to Romance you. (is that a word?) any ways you are God's Love

You are created to enjoy a Satisfying relationship with God more than a life of fun or happines or making a difference in your world. God created you to enjoy every second with Him to enjoy Him. Know that He is alway there waiting for you Because He Loves you!

I found the verse that we were talking about fear and love ↓

There is not fear in Love, but perfect Love cast out fear, because fear involves torment But he who fears has not been perfect in Love

We Love Him because He First Loved US

1 John 4:18-19

Destiny by Design

Week Two: 10/12-10/16 Teacher: Lucio

Key Point: In pursuing a better understanding of myself and God I will discover my calling.

Known: If I truly trust God and believe that He has a plan for my life I will willingly give up my own control. I felt convicted about a lot of the things Lucio said regarding the difference between what we claim to believe in order to appear godly and what we truly believe, but this idea in particular is one I ~~[illegible]~~ feel like God has been constantly putting on my heart. I have been trying to figure out how to give up control of my life for three years. I know that Gods plan for me is infinatley better than any conception of my own, but I can never bring myself to actually trust Him compelley. I like being in control. Im organized and I work hard to get what I want, but I can't control everything in this world, so eventually despite my best effort something goes wrong and I shut down, and then I just start running 100 miles per hour in the complete wrong direction. Even when I'm running, God has

His hand on my life even when I am running completely blinded by fear and pride. Looking back on everything that lead up to me being here I am filled with gratitude. Thank you Lord for bring me here when all I wanted to do was run. But with this gratitude comes the humbling sting of recognition that if I had obeyed God's plan in the first place I would have made it here with a lot less running and pain.

New: My personality type is melancholy choleric. I've always been a pretty self aware person, so none of it surprised me, but it was good to be reminded of my natural strengths and weaknesses and also be able it better understand the strengths and weaknesses of the people around me.

Truth:

It really resonated with me when Lucio said that if we can achieve something on our own it is probably our dream and not God's. I'm a highly driven perfectionist. I work hard to succeed in everything I do. This in itself is not a bad thing, but

With it comes an intense fear of failure. I often choose not to take risks because I would rather do nothing than ~~be~~ try something and do it wrong. Similarly I often step back and let other people make my decisions for me because I ~~would rather~~ don't want to be responsible for making the wrong decission. If I am truly going to follow Gods calling for me, I have to be willing to take risks. I have to continue to work hard, but also accept that eventually I am going to come to the end of my own strength and be forced to simply trust God. I've always loved hearing the stories about people who completley trusted God with their lives and ended up ~~possibly~~ achieving things and making impacts that are obviously impossible for a man to achieve, obviously acts of God. In order to ~~be~~ have one of these stories, in order to be one of the obedient 25%. I have to ~~reach~~ ~~work~~ ~~cost~~ ~~cost~~ be constently, consciously fighting my fear of failure ~~and obeying~~ fearing instead

and living in obedience to God

Personal Application:



How are you doing:
I feel like this week was one of renewal. I came into DTS excited and optimistic, but with difficulties each week my positive intentions would fade. Last week was hard I was struggling to interact with people and not really understanding the class, the whole week culminated in me sitting on Lucio's couch, disconnected from all the people speaking ~~fast~~ rapid Spanish arround me, staring at the picture of the Rocky Mountains on my mug and trying not to cry. That moment was the most difficult one I have experienced at DTS so far, but from it I have been able to build back up this week.
I loved Lucios class this week, it was by far my favorite class so far. I really appreciated how personal and applicable the teaching was. Often times in spiritual classes I feel like I'm just being preached at, gaining more knowledge and hearing more opions, but not actually being told how to practically

apply the lessons to my life. Lucio's class forced me to reflect on myself, and then gave me practical ways to move forward applying these reflections to my life. I also appreciated Lucio's humility as a teacher. I have had many people tell me how I ought to live my life, but very few reflect on honestly on how difficult in actually is to live in the way we are called. I appreciated that Lucio was making reflections about his own strengths and weaknesses along with the rest of the class.

The other thing I really appreciated about this week were my conversations with Yulmar and Vanita. I haven't been completley honest about how much I have been strugling with the social aspect of the bilingual DTS. I really want to form closer relationships with everyone in the school, but the differences in language, culture, and personality types often all feel very difficult to overcome. I end up a lot of times feeling

like I'm on the outside looking in, desperately wanting to be a part of the group but frustrated and unsure of how I should begin. My conversation with Yulma and Vanita helped me to ~~realize~~ recognize the frustration I was feeling and also opened my eyes to the fact that I am probably not the only person feeling this way. Instead of getting frustrated in situations where I am uncomfortable ~~in situations where I am unca~~ I need to be honest and ask for the help of others, similarly in situations where I am comfortable I need to be cognizant of the needs and feelings of others in order to make sure that they do not get frustrated.



Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you.
Yes, I will help you.
I will uphold you, with my
Righteous ~~hand~~ right hand

Isaiah
41:10





Dear Mariya!

Thank you for being open and honest with me today !!

I really appreciate who you are, and I think I been saying this befor, but you are Beutiful, inside and out...

Sunday night as I was praying for you God give me this verse of the Bible. as a reminder that you not alone He is always by you, walking always by your side.

and today as we were talking I realized why I got the bible verse, I hope you can see it too.
But please feel welcom to ask me.

Love ya Mariya!

Rebeca !!

Up to this week my journal entries have been organized and formulaic because that is usually how I process things. I take information, categorize it, and reflect on it. It's logical, comfortable, and systematic, but the teaching this week didn't work that way. It doesn't fit into my formulas, because in all honesty it completley blew them apart. God doesn't fit into my formulas, He defies logic and is seldom comfortable, because but He is glorious, powerful, relational, so much better than anything I could logically understand. God was chipping away at me all week, but in the ministry session He completely blew me apart. I came away from it feeling broken and vulnerable, but also ready to rebuild. I finally have a firm honest foundation on which to build a lasting faith, a true trust. So my journal entry this week is a compilation of that process of rebuilding; none of it is categorized, and I'm not sure any of it makes logical sense, but I'm just beginning to process what happened this week, so right now, this is all I have.

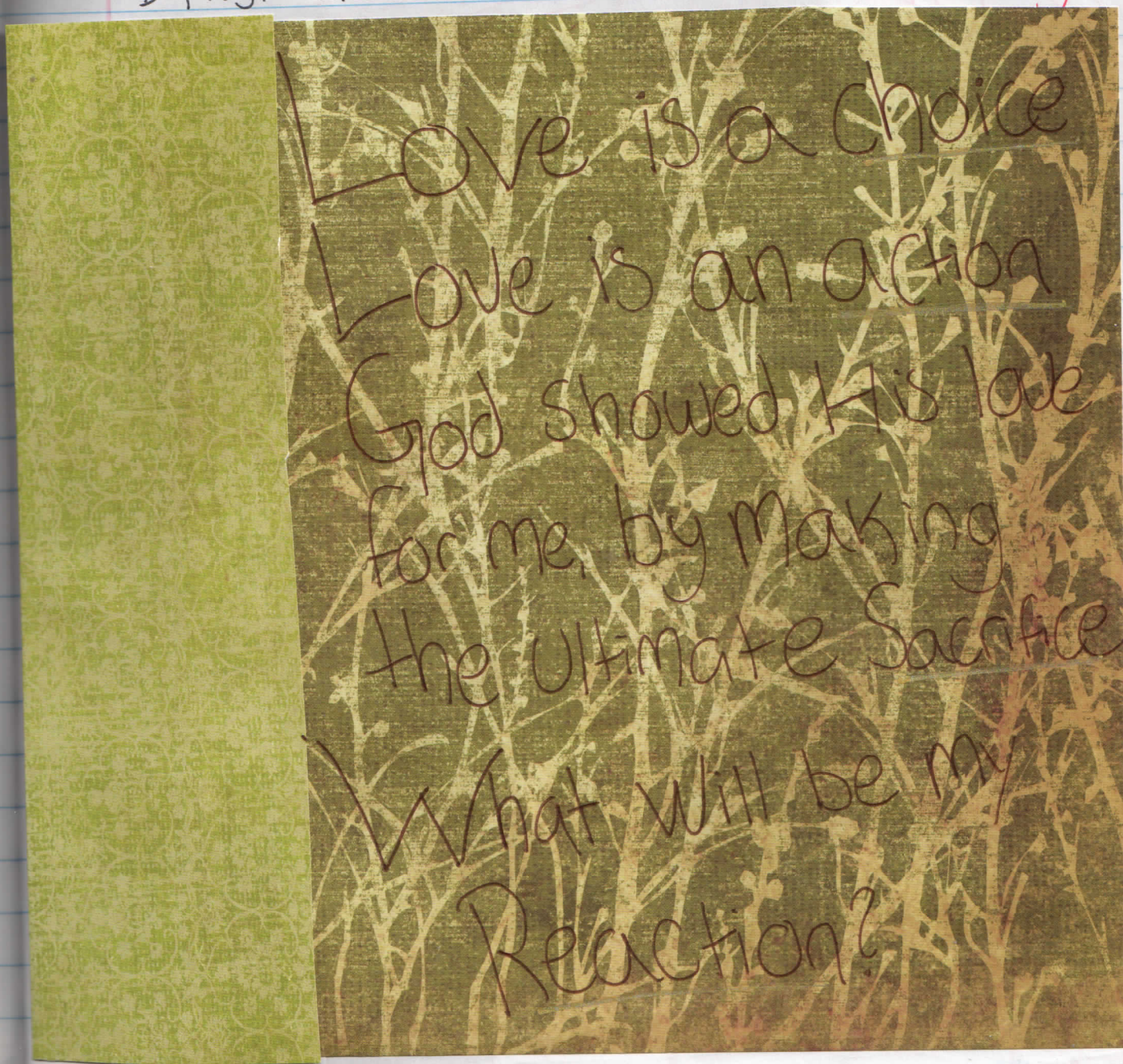
Father,

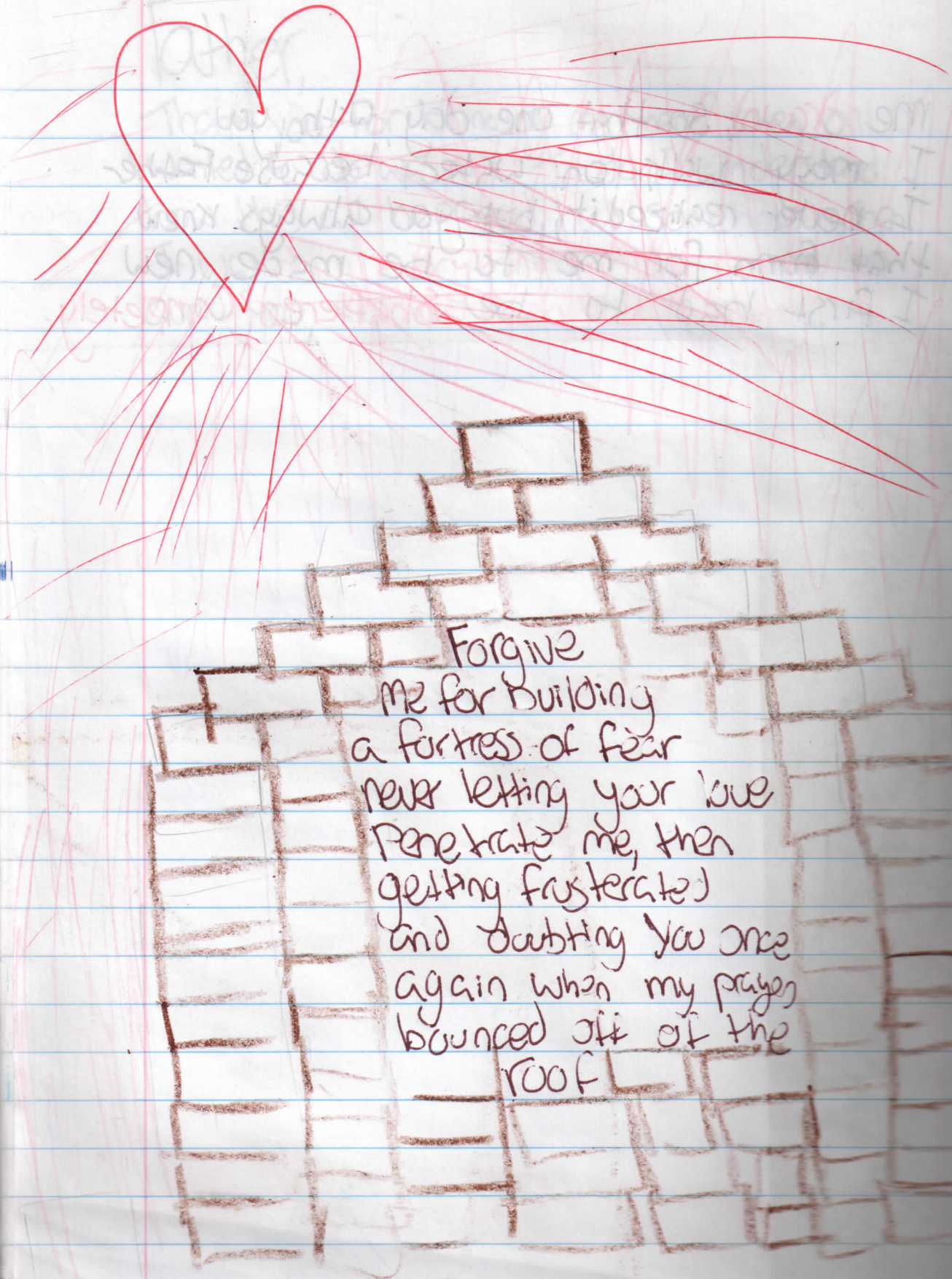
Thank you for bringing me here when all I wanted to do was run. I don't understand how this all happened, how somehow when I was doing everything in my power to avoid you, hiding from your presence, screaming over your voice you were holding me still, guiding me gently to a place where I would be forced to pursue and intimate relationship with You. Forgive me father for losing trust when life got hard. I prayed prayers begging you to take everything from me, to force me to truly rely on you, and then you did. I got exactly what I asked for and my reaction was to curse your name.

Why are you afraid? Oh you of little faith

Did I not calm the storm for Matthew will I not do the same for you? Lord, you remained faithful when I was faithless. Thank you for letting me fear so that I could understand faith, for showing me Hell, so that I may appreciate heaven, for letting

me drawn, so that one day with you
I may walk on water, because Father
I never realized it, but you always knew
that form for me to be made new
I first had to be Shattered Completely




Forgive
me for Building
a fortress of fear
never letting your love
Penetrate me, then
getting frustrated
and doubting you once
again when my prayer
bounced off of the
roof

I thought stepping off
this cliff ment I had
to free fall, so
blinded by fear
I couldnt see
that your hand
was there
waiting
to catch
me

Face your battles &
Find strength in me
Acknowledge your
pain and find
Peace in me
Live in the
storm and find
rest in me

Dear Mariya!

Last week was a very awesome yet interesting week...

I know there is alot that you are still processing.

Just know. you are NOT ALONE!

"I'm here says the Lord"

I'm here I say

Rebeca ☺

Thoughts
towards you,
thoughts of
of evil,
Future

call upon Me
to Me,
to you.
le and find
ch for Me

n you, says
will bring
r captivity
from all
from all the
driven you
I will bring
m which I
rried away

captive.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Marina

for I know the Thoughts
that I think towards you,
Says the Lord, Thoughts of
Peace and not of evil,
To give you a Future
and hope
Then you will call upon Me
and go an pray to Me,
and I will listen to you.
And you will seek Me and find
Me, when you Search for Me
with all your heart.
I will be found by you, Says
the Lord, and I will bring
you back from your captivity
I will gather you from all
the nations and from all the
places where I have driven you
Says the Lord, and I will bring
you to the place from which I
cause you to be carried away
captive.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Why Missions?

Week Six: 10/26-10/30 Teacher: David Clark

Key Point: The culmination of the Bible is the culmination of the Abrahamic Promise: All nations worshiping before the throne of Jesus Christ

Known: Modern Christians know what they believe, but struggle to understand its implications in their daily life. I think my greatest frustration with Christianity has always been this disconnect between what the Bible says, what people claim to believe, and how these beliefs manifest (or really don't manifest) themselves in Peoples lives. Even though this disparity between words and action was what turned me off from the religion it really didn't take me long to begin to manifest it in my own life. I got really good at spewing doctrine without ~~eeec practically~~ & having any idea how to practically apply what I was saying to my life. One of the hardest aspect of my faith has been figuring out how to unite the sacred and the secular. I think that we are only able to do this when we have a truly intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, the one who elevated our flesh

through His own death and resurrection. Only in walking in constant obidence to God can we begin to ~~understan~~ apply our doctrine to our daily life, understanding both what we believe and its implications.

Truth: Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of everything God had promised. God is faithful, When you read Scriptures like John 24 or Acts 13 it is obvious that Christ was the fulfilment of everything God had been promising for thousands of years, but the jews didn't see Him as that. The religous people, the people Jesus was sent to save, saw Him as a blasphamous, radical threat to their own comfortable worldview. I have always felt incredibly convicted by the question of what side of history I would have stood on if I had lived in Jesus's time. Being completly honest with myself is painful because I see many reflections of myself and my own faith in the Pharisees. Am I so obsessed with looking and acting right that I am denying ~~me~~ Jesus the opportunity to form a relationship with me, to speak light into my life? Am I so caught up in my own view of who God is and how He should work that

I am blind to the creative, ingenous way He is fulfilling His promises and answering my prayers in my life?

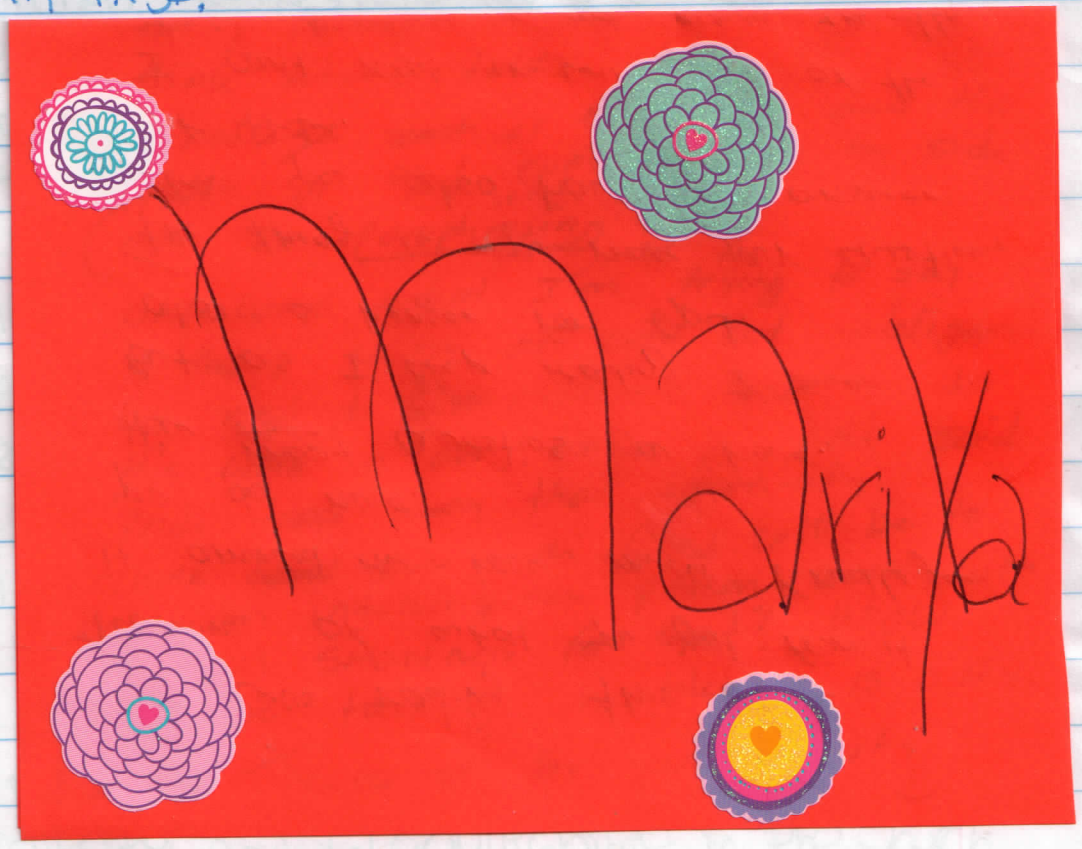
New: The gospel doesn't start with Jesus it ends with Him.

I've always been one of those Christians that struggles with the old testament. God killing entire tribes of people and asking people to sacrifice their own sons, just seems so far removed from the love and grace of Jesus Christ. I had always thought that God's promise of eternal life started with Jesus rather than His promise being fulfilled by Him. Looking at the Bible through the lens of the Abrahamic promise showed me the interdependency of the old and new testament. Acts of God that had once seemed so strange and petulent to me were reveled as a part of His plan, a ~~necessa~~ necessity to pave the way for the ministry of Jesus, His death, and resurrection. ~~Passage~~ But One passage that had always frustrated me was when God calls Abraham to sacrifice Issac. ~~I could understand~~ Why would God ask one of His followers to do something so

atrocious? What kind of God tests His servants by calling them to do something He has always stood against? In my frustration I had completley overlooked this story as a foreshadowing of Christ. It wasn't until David was talking about it that I realised that Abraham was the first person to have a strong enough faith in God to believe in something as incredible as resurrection.

Personal Application: God called the smart people and the talented people... They said no My biggest stumbling block in faith is the amount of pride I take in my own intellegence It has always been hard for me that often the most intellectual people in this world have no faith. I respect intellegence, so when intellegent people discredit faith it makes me doubt my own. I do not want my faith to be an excuse for ignorance I think that God created us with the power of logical reasoning to improve our relationship. Reason should not automatically be a barrier to faith. However I think what often happens is pride takes over and people begin to worship their own intellect over God. As we become more

impressed with man we begin to forget that God created everything first. I think its not so much that the intellegent people of the world don't believe in God, but rather it is the pridefully intellegent people who don't believe in God. My intelegence will not hold me back from pursuing God if I don't let it, if I don't ~~be~~ trust in it, if I am not pridefully in it. God can use me and my intellec- but only if I humbly submit everything to Him first.



as I was reading this week
Teaching of what you got from it
It amazed me how much Knodleje
you do have.
How ~~many~~ much Questios you have.,
But as I keep reading I see
also a hunger for God.
The thing is you make your Question,
and you also have the answer
of them.
I can't recall in wich part of the
Bible, Perhaps is not even in the
Bible where talks about the
Knodleje ~~and~~ of the world and the
truth of God can't be side by side
(note: I'm Paraphrasing this.) is this a word?
any ways what I'm trying to say
is that, with or with out inteligence
we need to ~~Give~~ room for God to do
His work in our life. you had said,
pride takes away that opportunity.
think about how much Good will be to
have an intellengince person work with
all that smartness for God? WOW
now we talking., hombleness is a key.
Mariya Thanks you for your honesty.

GO Conference

Week 7: 11/1 - 11-6

Known: We have to reshape the church for the 21st Century I think that really not growing up in a Christian home has made me more in-tune with some of the flaws of the church. My faith was repetidly shaken by the well-intentioned but ill-construed actions of over zealous Christians. I really appreciated Fred's call to reshape the church particularly in our treatment of sinners. ~~It has always frustrated~~ The church's treatment of sin has always frustrated me greatly. When asked about sin we automatically begin railing against a sin that we don't struggle with rather than being honest about our own battles and temptations. The church has lost credibility in our culture because we condemn others and deny our own brokenness. Why do we treat sinners so roughly when God is being patient and tolerant with us? Why are we so ~~slow to extend~~ mercy quick to pass judgement on others but so slow to be honest with ourselves We need a revival to bring back the credibility and accountability in the church.

A revival that starts with us, living in obidience to God, being but being honest about our brokenness, extending first His grace and mercy to others.

New: Coming into true relationship with God meaning seeing the world through His eyes

I think a lot of times I see serving God as a burden, as something I have to suffer through in order to please God, like if I could just read my Bible more or pray enough He would be happy with me. All this time Ive been doing the right things, but with the complete wrong motivation. Instead of forcing myself to plow through the Bible I should be pursuing an intimate relationship with God, the kind of relationship that makes me want to read the word of God because I am hungry to hear what He has to say. I think service and missions are similar I really don't really want to be a missionary and that sounds horrible because especially in YWAM it feels like everyone's calling should be to be a missionary. Ive considered going in to missions simply

because that's what everyone keeps telling me I should want to do, but once again my motivation is off. I should be going into mission because I actually could not live any other way, because my heart is broken for what breaks God's, because I could not imagine living a single day not in service to my father. I recognize that I still see service as more of a quota than a calling and I see that as a deficit in myself an opportunity to reach out to God, growing in relationship with Him so that I can be filled by the spirit, seeing the world with His eyes and feeling the pain in His heart.

Truth: Go, but go wisely

When Colleen said this she was talking about the need in missions to balance our zeal with discernment. So often we go in to situations and cultures very strong in our own mindsets, guns blazing, ready to save children and completely blind to what is actually going on. Really we aren't doing any good if we rescue

one person, but in doing so alienate the entire culture, endangering hundreds more. I think this especially true in YWAM because I think youth in missions is a double edged ~~sword~~. sword, yes there is a beautiful vigor, a purity, an intense energy, an optimism bu there is also a crippling arrogance, a lack of experience, a need to prove ourselves, and an insensitivity to others. How do we become realistic without becoming disillusioned? How do we maintain the zeal and vigor of God while also being patient and considerate? I think for me one of the ~~most important ways to be~~ most effective ways to strive this balance is through mentorship, through pairing an excited, inexperienced missionary with a seasoned one, ~~but~~ letting the young Christians rejuvinate already established ministry and bring light where passion may be dwindling but not necessarily expecting the young ~~person~~ missionary to know how to interact with new cultures and handle difficult situations completly on his own

Personal Application: Can you come before me in surrender without expecting anything in return? I think two of the greatest obstacles in my faith are my expectation and my entitlement. I get frustrated in worship because I feel like I'm not getting to experience what the people around me are experiencing, so then I repent or surrender, but not genuinely, more just in hopes that if I do this I will feel that. I have a similar problem with surrendering my future. I read books like Bob Goff's or Lorens and I think "Oh God, I want my life to look like this, so you take control." I'm surrendering my future, but not completely because with it is an expectation of how I feel God should use it. God will take what I surrender and return it in a way infinitely better than I could imagine, so why do I keep Him contained to my own imagination? Why do I get disappointed when He doesn't work according to my expectations. To surrendering everything includes my entitlement and expectations. It means coming before God expecting nothing in return.

I really really want to be there with you right now. To give you a hoge hug !!

Mariya !

How much you learn in everything... God had Gifted you with easy to learn things so much knodlege.

I want you to know that is ok to how Questions, to wonder to express your frustrations, your concerns.

In all that Mariya I see somebody hungry to know the truth.

I can See you as a Radical Christian somebody who can change th next generation of Believers

I pray for God to alway watch over ya, for you can have that encounter and to know is God with you. IS Coming, Believe me IS Coming...

I Love you!

RBK

Father Heart of God

Week 8: 11/7 - 11/13

Main Point: My past experiences should not negitively affect my current and future relationship with God

Known: Religon can damage our relationship with God Most of my frustration in faith has come from focusing on religon rather than relationship. I was really good at faking faith, at knowing what I need to say and do without feeling anything. I spent so much time trying to get to God religously, thinking that if I just prayed enough or read enough of the Bible eventually all the religous activity would pay off and I would begin to feel like I had a relationship with God. My faith was also often shaken by religous people. It often feels like my view of the world and my view of God don't line up with those of religous people. The arrogance and insensitivity I so often see in christians has always been hard for me to reconcile with the just and loving God we both claim to serve. I appricated that Doug acknowledged the humanism of

religion because it is something I have always struggled with. However, within His lesson Doug said that our religion cannot create a relationship with God, and that our experiences cannot define our relationship with God, so then lies the question How do I pursue a relationship with God?

New: My independence is a form of rebellion

I really related to what Doug was saying about how women react to the male domination of this world by needing to prove their independence. I have always been fiercly independent and proud of it. I never want to show weakness or admit I need help, and many times this has hurt my relationship with God. I hadn't ever really thought of my independence as a form of rebellion, but I guess since I was created to be dependent on God, my refusal to rely on Him is me going against His desire and my purpose. Ive always seen my own strength as a good thing, so recognizing it as a hinderence to my relationship with good is somewhat difficult but I think very important,

Truth: My perception of God should not be defined by my experiences. I think Ive grown up with the idea that perception is reality. Im a very practical, rationally minded person, so I want to come to conclusions based on observations, faith flies in the face of this. I want so badly for God to make sense in my own ~~Control~~ finite understanding but in trying to do that I both discount His power and doubt His love. Simply saying "I dont understand, but I know that my God is good" is really hard for me because I hunger for knowledge and understanding, admitting that there are things about this world, questions in my faith that I will never understand feels like admitting defeat. Im really working on walking in humility in my faith. I dont want my faith to be an excuse for ignorance, a reason not to think Critically, but I also want to be able to admit my own weakness and find victory in the fact that I serve a God more powerful and more loving than I could ever understand, and He is constantly working for my Good.

Personal Application: Everytime I'm frustrated with someone I should choose to forgive and bless them. This is something I've been working on ever since Doug talked about it. I used to be really good at seeing the best in people, but as my life get more difficult and more stressful I found myself getting frustrated easier and staying frustrated longer. I came into YWAM with some bitterness and I have been really working to combat that and simply be grateful for the blessing that these people and this time here really are. This constant forgiveness has been a really good practice for me these last couple of days because it has helped to remind me of the good hearts behind people's words and actions. We are all being broken and growing in our faith and each person reacts to it in a different way, forgiving and blessing people has helped me to have more openess and compassion rather than jumping straight to frustration with and bitterness towards others. I really want to keep practicing this especially as the group dynamic inevitably gets more difficult on outreach

Open

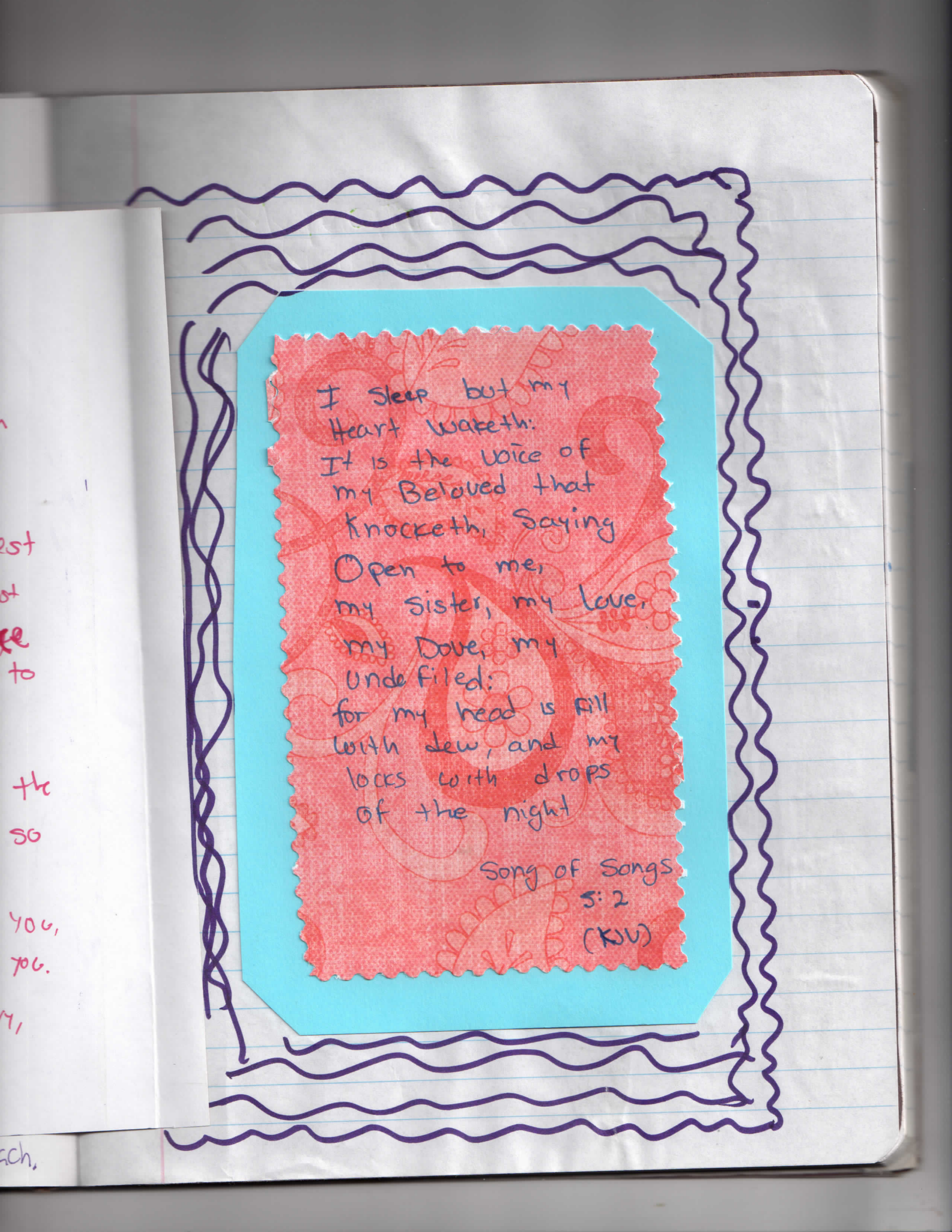
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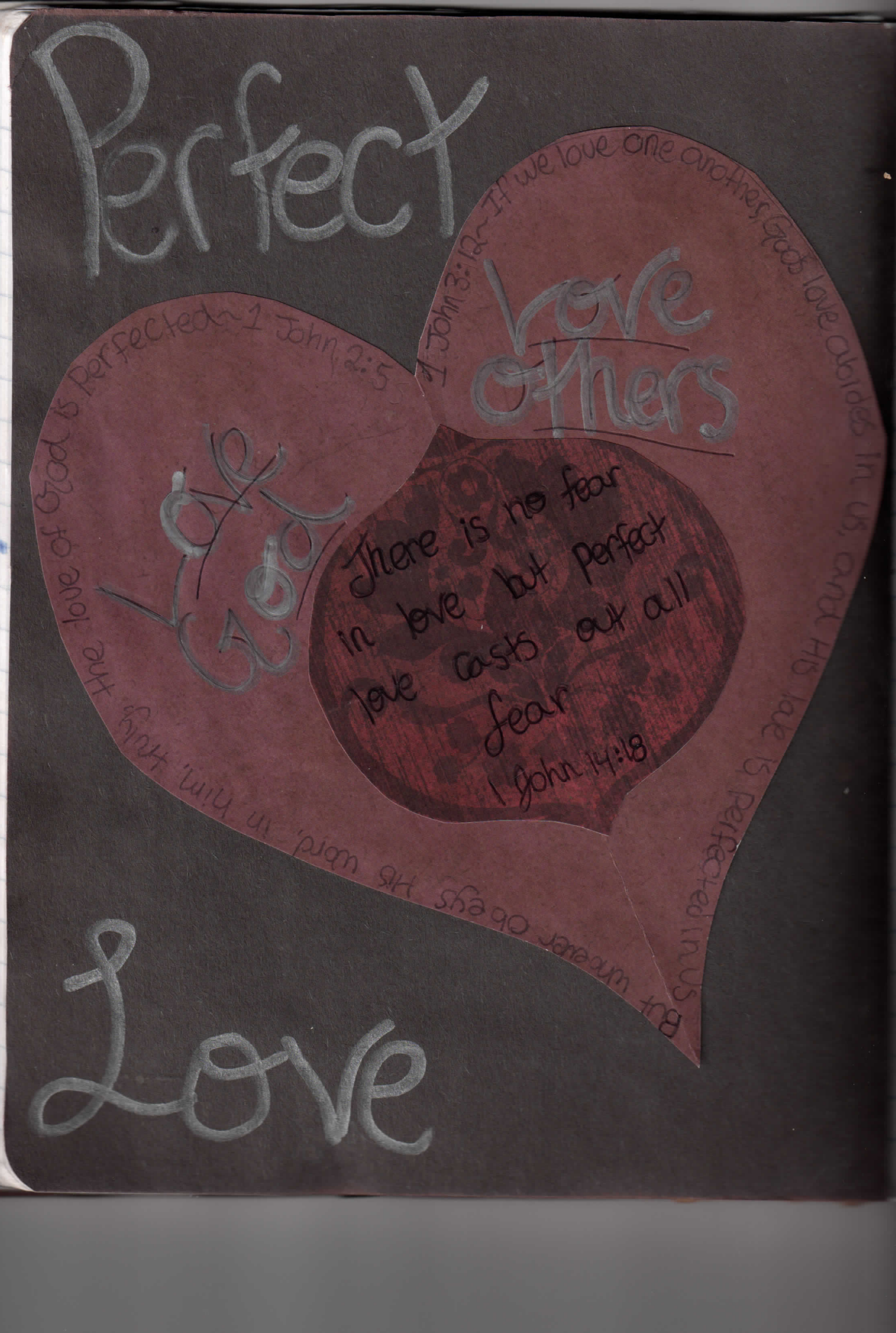
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Dear Mariya!

as I was reading your Journal I see how much hungry you are for God Thank you ~~for~~ being Honest If Believe the mor honest you are the ~~better~~ change you will Get for God to Speak to you more...

I feel God is saying the same thing. He desires so much to be with you to spend time with you, He is also hungry of you. and He loves you very, very much...


I sleep but my
heart waketh:
It is the voice of
my Beloved that
knocketh, saying
Open to me,
my sister, my love,
my Dove, my
undefiled:
for my head is filled
with dew, and my
locks with drops
of the night
Song of Songs
5:2
(KJV)


Perfect
Love
Love God
But whoever obeys his word, in him
truly the love of God is perfected. 1 John 2:5
Love others
1 John 3:12 - If we love one another, God lives in us, and His love is perfected in us
There is no fear
in love but perfect
love casts out all
fear
1 John 14:18

Unlocking the Bible

Week 9: 11/16-11/20

Key point: We have to learn to intepret scripture so that it is both understandable and relevant

Known: Wisdom can lead to exaltation or distruction

Reading the story of Solomon was very convicting to me because it demonstrated the power wisdom has when it comes from God and is used for Him, but also the destruction that can ensue when we rely on our own wisdom to bring about our own glory. We look at the story of Solomon and think "how could the wisest man in the world me so stupid", but really it is Solomons wisdom that prompts his desent into idolatry. At the begining of Solomons reign the Israelites are prosperous, Solomon uses the wisdom gifted to Him by God to uphold the covenant and because of this the King and his subjects are blessed. However, over time there is a shift, Solomon begins to focus on himself and advancing his own power, Solomon marries many women in an attempt to advance His political power and eventually these women draw him in to idolatry as he joins them in worshiping

their Gods. I believe that Solomon feel into idolatry long before he physically worshiped idols. Solomon was taken down by his pride and ambition, by trusting in his own wisdom and pursuing his own glory rather than God's. I think many of us have the potential to trust in the gifts we have rather than He who gave us those gifts. We begin to rely on our own strength or our own wisdom forgeting that these too come from God and can't even compare to His omniscience or omnipotence. Idolatry is a sin of pride, to come before the greatest being in the universe and reject Him, thinking somehow we can do better. I relate to the story of Solomon because I think my own desire to understand has the potential to lead me into idolatry. I think I have the potential to come into the presence of the Lord and explain it away or to be brought down by relying on my own pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Reading Solomon's story and his reflection in Ecclesiastes has reminded

served as yet another reminder that my own attempts to understand, my own attempts to find satisfaction without God are futile. ~~and will~~ I don't want to be like Solomon, coming to the end of my life and realizing I missed the ~~close~~ chance to live purposefully and faithfully for God.

New: Progressive revelation is God revealing His ~~[illegible]~~ plan for His people little by little over time as they are capable of understanding it. I've always struggled with how different God seems in the Old testament, I feel like His words and actions don't line up with my own view of Him today. How could God condone polygamy? or call the jews to kill entire tribes of people? I had never really thought about the idea of God meeting people where they are at just as we are called to do. It makes sense that God wouldn't enter into a culture and just start condemning the people, instead He ~~encouraged people to~~ would speak to cultures and work with societies in

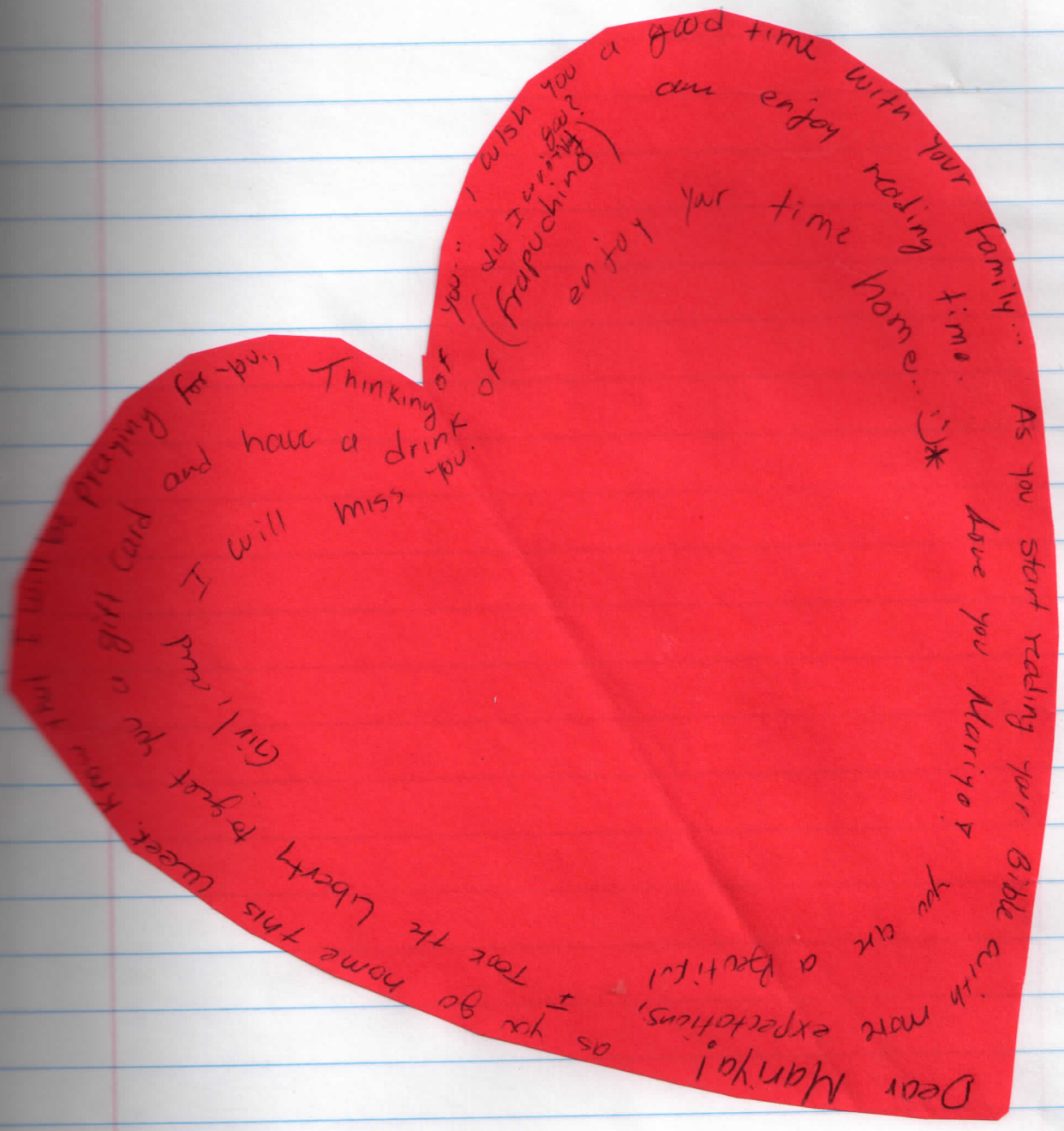
a way that they could understand. He would speak and act in a way that deep would bring people closer to Him, focusing first on pulling societies out of idolatry and then on getting them to live in a way that pleased His heart. God is practical and real, using sinful systems and broken people to reveal Himself.

Truth: Christ came to earth and put on flesh not to endure it, but to elevate it. Learning about the worldviews the Christians in Colossie had to battle was very interesting to me because we are not as far removed from these classical philosophies as we often think. Our christian doctrine tells us that the physical and the spiritual are not seperate but rather, in each of us, resides both; however in our daily lives we still tend to seperate the sacred from the secular. I think one of the most obvious manifestations of this is the way many people struggle to practically pursue God. It often feels like we can go one of two ways in our lives either dedicating

ourselves completley to God through missions or ministry, or ~~esteem~~ we can enter ~~the~~ into the world and eventually be overcome by it. ~~I think we all to some extent live with this worldview, but with~~ With the cross and the empty tomb, the psyche and the soma were unified, nothing is purely physical or spiritually which calls us to reevaluate our lives. The call is not to stop living practically and dedicate ourselves entirley to things we see as spiritual, nor ~~is~~ is it to discredit the Spiritual aspect of this world and assume it is purley physical. We are called to use the practical as a means to glorify God, called to do everything, even the most mundane of tasks, in obident worship to him, and called to work hard and live productuly in this world, pursuing the right thing, the worship of all people at the throne of our Lord.

Personal Application: Read the Bible as literature expecting revelation from God

I've always loved to read, but I've never liked to read the Bible. I think that this was mainly because I wasn't reading the Bible in the way I read other books I was reading it without understanding the stories or the context and then getting frustrated when it felt like it didn't make sense. After this class I'm going to come before the Bible with an attitude of expectation, expectation that I will understand it, relate to it, and be transformed by it, expecting that God will speak to me through His. I'm going to read whole books of the Bible without any sort of preconception. I'm going to be willing to put in the effort necessary to understand what I'm reading, studying the language and the history in order to have context about the story and the culture. I'm not going to be intimidated by the Bible and I'm not going to take it for granted I am going to read it with expectation.


Dear Mariya!
As you start reading your Bible with your family... As you go home this sweet Xmas I pray for much more expectations, and enjoy reading time.
You are a beautiful Girl and I will miss you. Thinking of you... I wish you a good time with your Mariya
I will miss you. Thinking of you... I wish you a good time with your Mariya
I will miss you. Thinking of you... I wish you a good time with your Mariya

