

Good Morning. My name is Chase Shiver.

I have been going to church with my family since I was about 4 years old. Many of you know Mrs. Donna Confer. She gave me some of my first lessons about Jesus, just as she does for the little children here at Mosaic as they go out each week for Kidz Club. The children go out just like I did and they bring back their art and their understanding of Jesus just like I did. When they come back to their parents they are all excited about what they learned. When we are children we are so innocent. Some of you know Ms. Susan Daughtry. As I got older she also taught me more about Jesus. She taught me about many of the stories of Jesus in the bible. Something happened as I got older. I was no longer so innocent. When I changed from being a small child, I learn the ways of a sinful world.

Friends and activities began shape the way that I thought and acted. I pretty much went to church to please my parents. I had to. It was what we did on Sunday mornings. I thought church was boring and I would rather be at the lake or doing something with my friends. There was a shift for my parents, they began to consider other churches and I wasn't too happy about it because I would be leaving the friends that I had made. But now I realize the only thing at my old church that I had was friends. Soon we started attending Mosaic and it was different than other churches that we had tried. I kind of did my own thing and kept to myself. After going to Mosaic for a while my dad was talking about going to this winter jam thing at the civic center to see some of his favorite Christian groups...and I kind of didn't want to go but I went because I didn't want to leave my dad stranded or put down. Me and my dad had a fun time. During the intermission I heard a man speak and I had no choice but to listen because I was in a civic center seat.

So, for once I actually listened. I realized that I needed Jesus in my life and that he was just wasn't a story in book. I also realized that the Bible wasn't just any old book. That night I accepted Jesus into my heart from the seat I sat in. I began to listen in church and started to really understand all of the stories and what they mean. I began to ponder the thought of being baptized. I pondered. I pondered some more. And then I got tired of pondering and Mrs. Carolyn helped me to make it happen. I pondered so long because I was not sure that I could get in front of people like I am doing now. But, with Jesus you can do all things. I was baptized on a rainy Easter Sunday in a cold swimming pool, my dad was right there with me just like when I was saved. It seemed right because I was born on an Easter Sunday. On that morning, I was reborn.

I became interested in doing small groups and later youth group. Today I don't hang out with the wrong clique any more at school. I try not to be the bully. I have been growing in my Christian life and now it is a joy to listen to Christian music with my dad and to share Jesus with my friends because I want them to be saved so they won't fall short of the glory of God. Now I enjoy going to Winter Jam with my dad every year and now we take my friends too! Who knows, maybe they will be saved too!