

## What Matters

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Georgetown Presbyterian Church  
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Good morning! My name is Helen Wilkins. I am finishing my sophomore year at Georgetown High School. As a pastor's kid I have grown up with God in my life, and it is an honor to spread his word from the youth's point of view today. My scripture passage comes from the book of Acts, chapter 10 verses 39-48

As youth, we are oftentimes underestimated. People doubt us because they believe we are too young, we haven't been through enough to truly understand life and death. If we can't fully comprehend things in life, and we still have doubts about our beliefs, how can we be trusted to teach other people about our faith? It's true that we don't know what it's like to watch a parent age and eventually forget who they are, but we see our friends get caught up in drugs and alcohol until they lose everything that they are. We don't get the phone call telling us our friend's long and painful battle with cancer has ended, but we wake up only to realize that our friend, happy and healthy the day before, decided that it wasn't worth it anymore and lost the silent battle they had been fighting all alone. We may not know the Bible or the complexity of the message God is trying to get across, but we do know God loves each and every one of us no matter what we do. He may test us in different ways, but can you really say we don't understand? That we're any different? As the passage shows, God's love isn't limited to any one person or group, but is equal to everyone who is willing to accept him into their hearts, and it is by his love that we are all brought together. So the sermons that have been read today may not be as well-versed or have a wide as wide of an array of vocabulary as someone who has graduated from college and seminary, but we are speaking from our hearts, and we have just as much of God's love that everyone here does. Being a Christian isn't based on the color of your skin, where you were born, how educated you are, or who you are, it's about loving God whole-heartedly and unconditionally. Jesus said everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Peter knows that everyone with the Holy Spirit can be baptized, despite the racial and cultural barriers it crosses. Isn't that what being a Christian is about? Defying people's beliefs and showing who you are through your faith. "I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me!" Jesus never limited the people who he preached to, so why does it matter who preaches his word? He began spreading his beliefs when he was a child and he got people to listen and he opened their eyes! It's not all about the words written on the pages of the Bible, but what God is saying on every page, in between every line, every word... "I love you". No where does it say I love the Gentiles but only the Jews can be baptized, or I love all the people, but only the adults can spread my word,. No, instead he proves each and every day that his love is diverse. It has no boundaries and that is the true beauty of it. You don't have to be educated, you don't have to prove anything to him, all he asks for is that you love him and you accept him just as he accepted all of us. That's what's so impeccably perfect about God's love, he sees through each and every one of us, knowing our thoughts and what's in our hearts. He sees the worst of us and it doesn't even faze him while we can't see past a person's skin. Nothing is greater than that. Even as a youth, I understand that all of the sermon's I hear, the verses I read, and every single second of my life is spent because God loves me. In the end... isn't that all that really matters?