

## My Three Circles Story – Sara

### INTRO

Hello, my name is Sara, and Jesus has totally changed my life. I'm excited to tell you a little about how Jesus led me from a life of fear to a life of freedom. Even though I grew up believing in Jesus, going to church, and trying to live like Him, I struggled with a lot of fear for a big part of my life. I was afraid of a lot of things, but I was the most fearful of failure and letting people down. That led me to a life of striving and performance and a lot of brokenness in my mental health. I was constantly focused on myself, and that was honestly really exhausting. That's where Jesus met me in His kindness and showed me that He didn't create me to live like that. He did this by teaching me about my identity, inviting me to grow in relationship with Him, and helping me discover my purpose.

### IDENTITY

You see, when I was living in constant fear of messing up or disappointing people, I didn't know it, but I was telling myself that my identity was determined by what I did and what other people thought of me. But **John 1:12 says that to all who receive Jesus and believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.** My identity as a child of God isn't something I can earn or achieve. Jesus gives this identity as a beloved daughter freely, and He just invites me to receive it. And because I didn't earn this identity, there's also nothing I can do to take it away.

### RELATIONSHIP

As Jesus' grace worked in me and showed me the truth about who He said I was, it also showed me some of the lies I'd been believing about my relationship with Him. You see, since I lived in fear of disappointing Jesus, I ended up keeping some distance from Him. This wasn't intentional, but I was just still so focused on my own shortcomings that I felt uncomfortable in His presence. But **Hebrews 4:16 tells us that we can approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.** Jesus wants to be close to me, so He gave me full access to His presence. He did this because He knows that only there can true rest, peace, and joy be found. He invited me to sit with Him so He could be my comforter and counselor. In that place, He showed me how to stop looking at myself and start looking at Him.

### PURPOSE

And it was only in that place that I could begin to understand my true purpose. My purpose wasn't to be perfect or to win the approval of others. My purpose is to live in freedom and share the goodness of what He's done everywhere I go. In **Acts 1:8, Jesus says that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on us and that we will be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.** As I've been strengthened by Him, I can't help but tell people about how He's transformed my life. Not only is this something the Bible says I was created to do – it's

something I want to do because I want other people to experience the same thing in their own lives.

## CLOSE

This is the story Jesus is writing in my life. He showed me that He didn't create me to live with constant fear because He already conquered that. He taught me that I'm fully loved no matter what. He showed me what it's like to experience deep safety, peace, and joy in His presence, and He's empowering me to do things like this to share that story with others because it's really worth it.

So what about you? As I said, fear really held me back from experiencing the freedom that I could only find in my Father's perfect love for me. But what's holding you back? Pain? Unforgiveness of yourself or someone else? Doubt, unbelief, or skepticism? Or maybe it's something else. No matter what it is, **Romans 8:38 says that nothing can separate us from the love of God.** No matter where you've been, what you've done, or what's been done to you, His love is available for you today.

I don't have everything figured out – all I know is that without the love of God, I don't know where I would be today. If you want it, it's a gift He offers to you today, too!

## OUTLINE

### Intro

- Jesus brought me from fear to freedom.
- I lived with the fear of letting people down, and that led me to a life of striving.
- Constantly focusing on myself was exhausting.
- Jesus showed me I wasn't created to live that way by teaching me about my identity, inviting me to grow in relationship with Him, and helping me discover my purpose.

### Identity

- Living in fear of failure meant I thought my identity was in what I did/what people thought of me.
- John 1:12 says that to all who receive Jesus and believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.
- I didn't earn or achieve this – I just get to receive it.
- I also can't do anything to take it away.

### Relationship

- As Jesus' grace worked in me and showed me the truth about who He said I was, it also showed me some of the lies I'd been believing about my relationship with Him.
- Fear made me uncomfortable in God's presence.
- Hebrews 4:16 tells us that we can approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- Jesus gives me access to Him because that's where I find true rest, peace, and joy
- He wants to be my comforter and counselor.
- He wants to teach me to look at Him and not myself.

### Purpose

- Only in His presence could I experience my purpose.
- I'm not created to be perfect but to experience freedom and share with others what God has done.
- In Acts 1:8, Jesus says that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on us and that we will be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.
- This isn't just something I'm created to do; it's something I want to do.
- I want others to experience the same freedom.

### Close

- This is the story Jesus is writing in my life. I don't have to live in fear because He conquered that.
- He showed me what it's like to experience deep safety, peace, and joy in His presence, and He's empowering me to do things like this to share that story with others because it's really worth it.
- Invitation to receive God's love