

**YOUTH SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH
JUNE 26, 2022**

Memories

Emmanuel: Writing up today's sermon required a lot of motivation. I know I put it off a couple of times. I'm sure Diya did the same too. Our excuse was we were getting ready for finals, prom, graduation, and all the things you do right before you leave high school, so we needed the extra push, and here we are. Has it been stressful? Absolutely, but I have a lot of fun memories to help me grow mentally while thinking about my future. Fun memories such as becoming senior class president and prom king.

Diya: Senior year was definitely stressful. This is because I had to figure out the next steps in my life – college, choosing a major, and a career I would enjoy. It has also been really fun. It's been wonderful hanging out with friends and family – which I am really grateful for. Some highlights of this year included getting into a good college to study marine biology – something I'm really passionate about.

Emmanuel: even though I have fun memories to take with me, the challenges of being a senior were present – I had to learn how to balance all my activities (classes, after-school activities) on my plate and keep the motivation to do my best. Was it like that for you Diya?

Diya: Motivation was certainly a challenge toward the end for me as well. I was pretty much done with high school and already accepted into the college I wanted to go to. Now picking a college was a challenge. I often changed my mind trying to weigh the pros and cons of all the schools I considered, and thankfully, I settled on the University of Delaware. I know one new challenge I'll have when I move to college is picking a new worship center. Christ Church has been a big support to me, I have been going since I was a baby, so I feel like it has been a big part of my life. I remember growing up going to Sunday school and participating in our youth choir, which was a lot of fun. A fond memory I have of Christ Church is the playground right outside, where me, my sister and my cousins would play all the time when we were little. I liked coming to Church to spend time with family and friends I have come to know at Christ Church. Will I miss coming to Christ Church? Yes, but I plan to join a faith-based club at college or find a place of worship near me. If I cannot find a place of worship that fits into my schedule, I can always watch the Christ Church live streams from home.

Emmanuel: That's true. Having the foundation of learning about Christ from a young age helped me definitely in the past three years as I have tried to grow a closer relationship with Christ. Will I find a new church on the Eastern Shore? I don't know. Being in a different environment might discourage me, but I'll still try to find a church.

They turn and ask they congregation a few questions

Diya: The following questions helped with today's sermon:

What does faith or being faithful mean to you?

- To me, "faith" or "being faithful" means living your life in a way where you treat everyone with respect, kindness, and dignity. Emmanuel, What does faith or being faithful mean to you?

Emmanuel: Faith means trusting in the midst of everything going wrong.

Emmanuel: How has faith helped you?

Faith gives me motivation to keep going and keep pushing forward no matter how things may seem on the surface. Diya, how has faith helped you?

Diya: My faith has helped me to learn how to treat others with unconditional love and how to remain hopeful in times of doubt.

Diya: How has your faith been tested?

Diya: Have you ever been really angry with God? Why?

I have never been angry with God, but I have been confused/angry about the way people treat other people. Any kind of hateful way of thinking, discrimination, or bullying has never made sense to me, and one thing I struggle with is understanding how to show love towards people like this.

Emmanuel: Not really. I get mad at the outcome of things when they don't go in my favor but not directly at God.

Emmanuel: Have you ever wished you could give your faith to someone who was in trouble or feeling really low to help them through a difficult time? Why?

Yes, one of my friends is struggling with depression and has gone through so many trials and tribulations. Because of this, he has put off believing in religion. (Not atheism)

Emmanuel: So Diya, what's next for you?

Diya: I plan to go to the University of Delaware this fall, where I will be majoring in Marine Science. I am so excited to learn about a topic I have always been passionate about and gain independence as I move away from home. Although I am excited, I am also nervous about being away from family and having to take on more responsibility in my life. Hopefully, with what I have learned from loved ones, school, Church, and other support systems in my life, I will be able to succeed as I take this next step. What about you? As I say my goodbyes, I leave you with my favorite verse which has helped me from Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Emmanuel: I'll attend the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (UMES), majoring in Computer Engineering. I think of the Bereans' relationship with God and how they always read the Bible and followed the scriptures, as pointed out in Acts 17:11. It makes me think about how I should read the Bible more, and it's a good example of how people should act. Read the Bible for your own understanding, don't just be a passive person in the Church and wait for the pastor to tell you the word. **Otherwise, how will you build your relationship with God if you are just trusting in what man says?**

Diya & Emmanuel: God Bless you!