

Who Am I?

My name is Melanie Estonina and I am 26 years old and I am from San Francisco, California. Both of my parents were born and raised in San Francisco, California and my grandparents were born and raised in the Philippines; I am 100% Filipino American. I moved to New York, NY to study nursing because I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and challenge myself to live somewhere new other than the state I grew up in, and rather than living at my parents' home still. But I chose to study nursing because the gift God blessed me with is the gift of service and being an empathetic person, so I find joy in contributing to the improvement of the well-being of others. I would like to say I am still discovering who Jesus is to me because I am on my own journey to discovering my faith and currently, he is someone I try to lay my worries and anxieties to when I feel that life or my emotions are consuming me. I dream of becoming a nurse practitioner, then a travel nurse practitioner so that I may travel the country and maybe even do nursing internationally, then I dream of having my own practice and eventually getting a farm with a bunch of animals. I have many dreams but those are my main ones. I admire my mother because she has experienced a lot of hardship, so much so that she began working for my grandparent's restaurant when she was only 6 years old; but accomplished her masters at UC Berkeley and is now a principal of a school. She is an example to me that despite hardship in life, one can accomplish anything, even when it seems impossible, resilience is possible. My dad inspires me as well because he also had to work hard when he was young, he failed one of his classes for his major but now is very successful because he did not give up.