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Reading Response Paper 2

Life is so busy. In the midst's of having so much to do and only 24 hours in a day, it can add a real struggle in making time for God. Or at least that is a struggle I have come across in my own life. God has taught me so much over the years and has really showed me different ways to keep my relationship with Him in the midst's of the busyness and stress of life. Maintaining a healthy relationship with Christ is difficult, but through growing pains and relying on His unconditional love, I have found great peace and joy. One of the key factors in walking with the Lord is to keep in contact with Him. What is amazing about God, is that He always answers. Relying on God through prayer in all that I do is a way I keep my walk with God alive and well.

I have recently taken a moment to choose something in my life to give up for the 40 days of Lent. It has been a struggle, but I have recently given up coffee, something that I rely on quite a bit. I never realized how much coffee is all around me. Cape Cod Bible Alliance Church where I find myself most of the time, reeks of coffee. Almost everyone always has a cup of coffee in their hands. When people pass me, I can smell the sweet aroma of coffee and creamer, my favorite. Even if it was the one thing that got me out of bed in the morning, I really am glad I chose to give up coffee through this season of Lent. God has taught me to recite verses whenever I am tempted by coffee. By doing this I am learning that God works in all sorts of ways in our lives. If we truly take the time and effort to ask God to teach us, He always comes

through. I am filled with joy knowing that something I relied on completely is now something I no longer need, but rather prayer and time in God's word have taken its place.

My husband and I love to lead people in worship. It is something so special and God honoring to us. Being able to have the opportunity in life to be able to worship God with my husband and lead our congregation to that place has been an honor. It is another huge way my relationship with God is kept vibrant. Leading up to Sunday morning worship, I have recently started to fast giving my trust to God. I usually struggle with nerves on stage but fasting has brought me to a more intimate place of giving my whole mornings to God. I try to truly let the words of the Scripture and the songs we sing, be my portion that sustains me through fasting.

God is alive in my life. God is here and has a better plan for our lives than the plan we have for ourselves. By truly searching for Him with an open-heart, allows us to see Him and allows Him to teach us and work in our hearts. I hope by reading this and learning about some of the tools I have personally used will also be a tool that helps others navigate through the trials of this world and maintain a healthy relationship with Christ. It is not always smooth, but I encourage anyone looking for a truly fruitful relationship with Christ to try the different methods that Jesus did. Jesus led us by example, and I know if we are searching for different ways to keep a healthy relationship with Him, we will find Him every step of the way.