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Reading Response Paper 3

Both my mom and dad were a huge influence in my life, they taught me the majority of what I know, and I learned so many valuable lessons from them. They showed me Christ in the little moments because of their true passion and love to follow Him. I'm so thankful for how hard working they were and for giving me such a beautiful upbringing. I have such fond memories.

I often relive those beautiful memories, almost every time I close my eyes. God gave me a piece of heaven on earth, and they have the names, dad, and mom. My own piece of heaven feels like a moment in time. I've come to realize that it is difficult to breathe and move forward with joy knowing I may never have them in my life together again. To have the memories I do is detrimental to my heart, mind, and soul. I close my eyes and we are all together again. I have my piece of heaven, but I can no longer see it with my eyes open. They all live together in my past but no longer are in my future at least not together as they once were. Those memories and who they were live in my heart and forever will. I like to think of those times as a piece of heaven God gifted me. They were not perfect, but they taught me so much in life. God is my foundation, but my parents and grandmas taught me how to depend on God in all situations. I depend on God unapologetically because of my beautiful family. I now come from a broken family, but my past was the greatest point in time I have experienced. God truly blessed me with my family and continues to bless me with the memories of my family. My husband and I have been married for

6 years and I hope to have a beautiful foundation just as I did when my time comes to have children.

My dad taught me laughter in the hard times as well as the good times. He had this Christ-like joy in him that was so transparent in his work ethic and words. Everything he did was for the glory of God. My dad struggled through his childhood before he accepted Christ, but he taught me to be content in hard situations. Because of the truly hard times he experienced, he was a perfect teacher on overcoming obstacles with the love of Christ. He taught me that apart from Christ nothing can be done. I truly believe that was a beautiful artform that he passed on to me. Of course, I do struggle but he taught me how to look outside of my struggle and look at it from the perspective of looking for what God might be teaching me. My dad often referred to the book of Job as an example to worship Him amid losing everything.

Emma, my mother has a gentle spirit but taught me to be strong in my faith and would refer to Matthew 17:20. She called her faith, "crazy faith" because of a sermon she heard when I was a child. My mother never gives up! Her passion was to become a teacher and took her licensing test over 40 times because of her determined spirit. Her heart has always been on fire for God. She has been such an incredible person in my life and has both taught me and showed me what determination and making Christ the center of your world can do.

Both of my parents are not together any longer, but their teachings and love remain in my heart. I pray that I display half of the love, strength, determined spirit, and joy through all situations as they have taught me. I adore God and I adore my parents for teaching me the true love of Christ through their actions.