In high school, I had a lot of friends of circumstance: my math friends, my track friends, my band friends, etc. My only constant friend was my best friend Ivy. All throughout high school, we were each other’s comforts through bad tests, hard classes, and messy relationships. I loved Ivy because often, she was what I needed to get through the day. Whenever I felt alone, I would message her with whatever was on my mind. It was a selfish relationship because she was only a temporary fix to my loneliness. The summer before college, she became so busy with her job that she couldn’t talk to me as much. When she couldn’t make me feel less lonely, I wanted her to feel as lonely as I did. My conditional love for her ran out, and I didn’t talk to her for a year because I wanted her to suffer as I suffered.

Coming to college, I was hoping for new friends, and God provided. A person in my lecture invited me to JCA, and I found the friends I desperately needed. I wanted to be around them, not only because of my loneliness, but also because I saw they loved, and I wanted to be loved. Through family group and sermons, I learned about a God who loved, and in His love, I saw how imperfect mine was. Where I only loved “deserving” people, God loved indiscriminately. Where I loved because of what people did, God loved because of who He is. Where I turned away from the people that hurt me, God loved us so much that He sent His son down so that we could be reconciled with Him.

As I was experiencing His love, God told me to forgive Ivy. I knew this, but there wasn’t enough of God’s love in my heart, so God kept working, pursuing me through family group and class relationships. At the end of my freshman year, God had shown me that His love was greater than my loneliness, and for the first time, I felt free. He saved me, and when I went back home, I forgave Ivy.

God’s love is not self-serving, His love keeps no record of wrongs, and His love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. (Sentence about hopelessness / loneliness / how God saved me from loneliness)