

## Elizabeth's second interview

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2 **Interviewer:** You've been reflecting on how your faith has changes as you've  
3 been growing up. Is there anything further that you would like to  
4 add to what you've stated?

5 **Elizabeth:** No. I think –

6 **Interviewer:** Okay. That's alright. That's generally been the response. But  
7 then we start to break the question down. What about your  
8 image of God? What would you like to add about how your  
9 image of God has changed over the years?

10 **Elizabeth:** Um – I read a book called *The Five Love Languages*, talking  
11 about the five love languages. And I know that my love  
12 language is touch and I think – I think that that might – well, it  
13 occurred to me that that might have a – be a part of, or influence  
14 the whole, you know – that's every, every image – every image  
15 that I like the most, is – is – involved touch.

16 **Interviewer:** What about the images that you like the most?

17 **Elizabeth:** Like – like holding a baby, holding hands, or – yeah.

18 **Interviewer:** Can you recall anything that you would have said or written in  
19 relation to this?

20 **Elizabeth:** Like – yeah. Mother, the mother and father like holding the  
21 baby, or safe in – safe in arms, or – yeah, things like that, or  
22 even the images of God that are put in the Bible, like the mother  
23 hen. That's the one that I immediately think of.

24 **Interviewer:** Good. Do you have anything further to say about the people,  
25 such as your parents and your sisters, friends, other people, and  
26 the events that have influenced your relationship with God?

27 **Elizabeth:** Me – I – I've come – I've talked about Katy and – but – um in the  
28 - it's pretty amazing to me how close friends we've become in  
29 the few – in just a few months since the start of this year. Um –  
30 yeah, she – she keeps – she keeps influencing me more and  
31 more, not like a lot, not just with God things, but the kind of  
32 person I am. Um – yeah – she like – she teaches me a lot how  
33 to interact good with people, like – um – well, you know, say the  
34 word "respect", but I don't know, it doesn't quite fit properly, but  
35 just how to – yeah, how to treat other people well, just by, just by  
36 like watching her and how she – how she's and a – like it – it's  
37 easy for someone like me whose had a really good life and had  
38 it easy – um – take – take things that happened and make them  
39 bigger than they are, or it's easy to – to – I don't know, become  
40 not happy with the things you have, or – um – but, but when –  
41 like she's had like real bad things happen in her life and – um –  
42 yeah, that she told me about that she hasn't, y'know, said to  
43 many people. And to people that she has said, she's got real  
44 bad reactions. Um – and she – just the way she gets over it and

45 keeps going and the way that the relationship with God is really  
46 good and the way he's a part of every – like everything that  
47 happens like just shows me – Like, I think, well, you know, it  
48 makes me feel bad when I make little things into big things, or,  
49 yeah, like – so she – yeah, she – she's been really big lately.  
50 And then, like the other people are still – like my parents or my  
51 sister, still good and steady.

52 **Interviewer:** Is there any difference between God and Jesus and the Holy  
53 Spirit in your life at the moment?

54 **Elizabeth:** The Holy Spirit seems like – when like when I was reading back  
55 and I couldn't like – couldn't say really what the Holy Spirit is, but  
56 I think it – it's like – to me it's like power, like – um – yeah – to be  
57 able to God things, or good – good things and – yeah – but  
58 whereas – it's funny to think I don't know, when we talk, like at  
59 camps when we're talking about – um – things. We have a  
60 question box and at the end and if you – it's anonymous. You  
61 write down a question on a piece of paper, put it in and then we  
62 talk about it, throwing around a little toy and you can only speak  
63 when you have the little toy. And – um – it – that – that's what  
64 seems Jesus is. Basically everything seems to be when you talk  
65 about God or whatever, but I dunno, like trying to think of the –  
66 the differences between God and Jesus is – um – like you – you  
67 can only think of the human when you – I dunno – like it's the  
68 same thing but it seems to be more when I think of God, I think  
69 of Jesus type thing.

70 **Interviewer:** You said that with your image of God, the key word is “touch”.

71 **Elizabeth:** Yes.

72 **Interviewer:** When you think of Jesus, is it the same word?

73 **Elizabeth:** Yeah.

74 **Interviewer:** Okay.

75 **Elizabeth:** That connected whenever – when you think of God, you think of  
76 Jesus.

77 **Interviewer:** But with the Holy Spirit?

78 **Elizabeth:** Yeah, it's different, it's different. That's just my thinking on it.

79 **Interviewer:** That's good. What about prayer and your relationship with God?  
80 Is there anything else that you'd like to add?

81 **Elizabeth:** Um – well, that – that's another thing that changed 'cause – um  
82 – I could always like pray with myself to God by myself. I've  
83 been doing that forever, but like I'd have trouble praying with  
84 other people, you know, but I'd do it, like I'd do it at camps. Just  
85 mainly to show, I dunno, to show – because I was the leader –  
86 the younger people there and – and – some of the older youth or  
87 the classes would have come with this big prayer and all these

88 words and I'll just like I just think like, so I'll say – like if there's  
 89 just silence, or anyone can pray, I'll say something like “Thank  
 90 you for the rain” or whatever, so maybe they'll – Yeah, you don't  
 91 need to say a lot. But – um – Katy, she'll just say it. Like if, you  
 92 know, you're talking about something, she'll say, “Please Jesus  
 93 – ” and just say it in that it's such a part of everything and just  
 94 comes into mind with everything. In those situations when  
 95 you're just talking to someone, that like, y'know, if you're worried  
 96 about something, she'll just say, “Please Jesus, let blah, blah,  
 97 blah, blah, blah” or whatever. And like that's really like made a  
 98 difference to me that like I don't leave it 'til the night, or  
 99 whatever, to think about it. And also – um – yes, it gets easy  
 100 with practice 'cause at every LYWA meeting we'll go 'round the  
 101 circle, or go off with somebody – um – yeah. And we – at  
 102 Church, I had this thing that – I won't go into it – but – um – I just  
 103 basically thought like this is – I don't want to have any thing to  
 104 do with this God stuff anymore. But then I went to Katy and  
 105 Josie and talked to them and kinda sorted it out a little bit. At the  
 106 Maundy Thursday service – um – we have a reflective and stuff  
 107 like that and we have a section where you – um – there's like  
 108 Dad's up there giving Communion and you go up with your  
 109 family. And then there's like bowls 'n' stuff to wash feet. And  
 110 then there's people over here, like in corners, that you can go to  
 111 to pray for you before. And that like there's been a lot of times  
 112 since I've had things like that but I've never gone. But this time I  
 113 thought, “Nah, I'm gonna go.” So I went up to this one lady – I  
 114 babysit her kids – and –um – she's nice, a real welcoming – and  
 115 I look up to her a lot. And I told her about it and asked her to  
 116 pray for me and so she prayed for me and it was really good and  
 117 I was really happy. And – yeah – that's another thing.

118 **Interviewer:** Good. Is there anything that occurs to you about your  
 119 experience of school, of RE classes, teachers, your peers that  
 120 you haven't said up to this point?

121 **Elizabeth:** I've already said the thing of – like 'cause of the Catholic thing, I  
 122 really didn't even give it a chance – um – which like I probably  
 123 should have and I could have like learnt something, or got  
 124 something out of it, I'm sure. Um – but that doesn't mean that  
 125 the teachers didn't influence me because some did.

126 **Interviewer:** Can you think of any teacher who influenced you in any way and  
 127 what it was about that teacher?

128 **Elizabeth:** I think of Miss Smith but I can't say what.

129 **Interviewer:** It hasn't occurred to you what it is about her that attracts you?

130 **Elizabeth:** No, not really. There's something though. Um – did you say  
 131 “peers”?

132 **Interviewer:** Yes, peers.

133 **Elizabeth:** Um – with my friends at school, once we left school – um – was  
134 when – It’s funny because who – who we used to hang around  
135 with at school changed and we knew each other but yeah, like  
136 our group – we had a – it was like we had a proper group,  
137 whereas we didn’t when we were at school. And we got to be  
138 better friends after school and stuff ’cause Dana left and so I  
139 was like forced to – maybe like – um – yeah. So their influence  
140 on me was bigger after school just ’cause I was better friends  
141 then.

142 **Interviewer:** Are you able to explain why that happened? Why didn’t it go the  
143 other way?

144 **Elizabeth:** Other way? What do you mean?

145 **Interviewer:** Other people have the experience of moving away from their  
146 friends. Their friends change, or they change.

147 **Elizabeth:** Um – well, I think we saw each other at school and sometimes  
148 we talk when we’re in classes, but – um when – and that was  
149 kind of you’re satisfied with that, but that when you don’t – It’s  
150 funny ’cause like me and Sue would talk about how like I’d say,  
151 “Well, I’m not really going to make the effort to call you.” And  
152 she’d say, “Well, I’m not really going to make the effort to call  
153 you.” So like we’d understand that that was it after school. But  
154 then after – after Year 12 Assembly, we went out to lunch. And  
155 then it just goes on from there. Like, you’ve made the effort to  
156 see them and to actually do things because like you don’t see  
157 them at school. so it was more quality when you had to – yeah,  
158 the time.

159 **Interviewer:** Good, good. Well, I think we covered the themes. Is there  
160 anything you’d like to add to what you’ve stated that we haven’t  
161 covered?

162 **Elizabeth:** Even more than when I wrote the journal, I’m doing even more  
163 stuff with LYWA now and – um – yeah, that’s pretty big in my life  
164 and keeps – Like the last camp was – um – the topic was “God,  
165 relationships and sex.” And so that was – it was a camp – we’d  
166 been wanting to do a “sex” camp for a while, but it’s a, you  
167 know, a hard topic, or just uneasy. Um – but – I didn’t run that  
168 one. Josie did, Josie and my brother Ivan. And – um – it’s  
169 funny ’cause that was a camp where I had to be a leader the  
170 most and I really didn’t expect it. I didn’t properly – probably  
171 didn’t properly think about it, but I had a lot of – a lot of kids  
172 come up and like ask – as well as in a group – Like you’d talk  
173 about it in the group and go through it, but – um – like in other  
174 times, come up and ask me questions and wanna talk to me,  
175 you know, about what’s love and, you know, “Is it okay?” “Will I  
176 be in love?” “Am I in love at this age? Is that possible?” and  
177 stuff like – So that was – yeah – different. I was forced to be a  
178 leader a lot more on that camp.

179 **Interviewer:** Did you enjoy the experience?

180 **Elizabeth:** Yeah. I like – I think I like being group leader more than being  
181 big camp leader 'cause you get like to talk with the kids more  
182 and, yeah, do more with them, whereas you've got so much to  
183 organise and do otherwise. You're too busy otherwise. Um –  
184 yeah. Another thing is that we do the – on the LYWA meetings  
185 we always – after the LYWA meetings we always, maybe half  
186 the LYWA Committee – always we kick my sister and her  
187 husband out of their house – we always come to their house and  
188 stay in their home for the night. And then we usually go to  
189 Church in the morning, or there might be something on. But –  
190 um – that's another good thing in that like we're still together. It  
191 follows on and they always during those times – like we have a  
192 lot of fun and muck around and stuff. Like there's usually – like  
193 if someone needs to talk about something, or – um – it's good to  
194 be able to like do things with them. It's good to be able to –  
195 yeah – do normal things, or fun things and then you always  
196 know that they're there if you want to talk about something  
197 serious 'cause you have fun.

198 **Interviewer:** You've talked a lot about fun. Why is that important to the  
199 group?

200 **Elizabeth:** My biggest thing with like younger youth, or, you know, being a  
201 youth person is you've got to teach them that it's normal, it's fun  
202 and we have – we're just like them, just like everybody else. We  
203 can muck around and we can do the normal things and the fun  
204 things, but all it is is that we've got this big wicked thing that,  
205 y'know, that they could have, too. And at the – at the last camp  
206 – um – there's this guy and – I think he's about 20 years old –  
207 and he's gone through a lot in his life, and he – um – he's gone  
208 through a lot and now he's over the top. Yeah, he's got to do  
209 this and the Bible says this and – During the question box, he'd  
210 get the thing and he'd say something and when – when you're  
211 talking about topics like masturbation with all these 14 year-old  
212 boys who would be like really struggling with that, he'd get it and  
213 he'd say with a tone of voice and he's day like "Masturbation is  
214 worse than murder." And like you'd like just cringe. And one of  
215 the younger 15 year-olds had a beanie like with little horns on it  
216 and he went off at her about it and so I went and talked to him  
217 during lunch and I brought it up and it ended up being this big  
218 argument with me and him because like the girl, she brings all  
219 her friends to camps and to you and even to Church. She's  
220 even got them coming to Church. And if they come to a camp  
221 and they're wearing this they just don't think any thing of, it's just  
222 cute and he says one thing to them and that's it, ruined it for  
223 everyone. So I get angry at that real easy. But it was really  
224 good 'cause he went and spoke to the pastors and he changed  
225 a little bit and he was happy.

- 226 **Interviewer:** Could you talk about why you allowed yourself to get involved in  
227 all of this?
- 228 **Elizabeth:** What do you mean “all of this”?
- 229 **Interviewer:** Getting involved in LYWA, getting involved in camps.
- 230 **Elizabeth:** Allowed myself?
- 231 **Interviewer:** You could have walked away from all that.
- 232 **Elizabeth:** Well, it was fun. That’s one thing with doing it with your friends.  
233 And – I don’t know why, I don’t know why –
- 234 **Interviewer:** You haven’t worked it out. You don’t know what you’re trying to  
235 achieve?
- 236 **Elizabeth:** Well, I know after. I don’t know why I started.
- 237 **Interviewer:** Why are you in it now?
- 238 **Elizabeth:** Yeah, because I want to show like younger kids, y’know, that it’s  
239 normal and fun. It’s good. It’s not, you know, it’s not what like  
240 they think. You think of what Church is. People who think of  
241 what Christianity is who aren’t involve with it – like they’ve got a  
242 totally wrong idea and that’s why they don’t get involved with it.
- 243 **Interviewer:** Okay. So the “it” that you keep talking about is Christianity?
- 244 **Elizabeth:** Yes.
- 245 **Interviewer:** Excellent, Elizabeth. That’s it. Thankyou for allowing me to  
246 interview you.