

## Unit 1

### Learning Activity Part 1: Autobiography

My name is Chad Martin. In June, I will be celebrating 7 years with my wonderful bride, Heather. We live right outside Richmond, Virginia and are the proud parents of two beautiful little girls. Olivia Grace is turning 4 this month, and we are throwing a "Tangled" themed birthday party this weekend. Her younger sister, Mckinley Claire, is 18 months and into everything.

I professed faith at a young age, grew up in the church and attended a Christian school. I heard all the Bible stories, starting with flannelgraph in elementary all the way through high school. Growing up, I was a "good kid". I was an active participant in my Church youth group and was even part of the student leadership. After graduating high school, I went college at Virginia Military Institute as, what I would call, a "cultural Christian". I had a lot of Christian knowledge, but my life displayed little to no evidence of regeneration.

After marrying my wife, we attended the church where I had grown up as a member. We did attend Bible studies, but I was a reluctant participant. I came across a book one day that perked my interest. It was a book on Heaven so I picked it up at the Christian bookstore along with a book on prophecy and Islam.

Reading both books in parallel, God chose to reveal Himself to me. It was January of 2006. I was a physics teacher at the time, and I remember reading the book on Heaven while on my hall monitor shift. It was a flooding of clarity by the Holy Spirit. Like a disciple on the road to Emmaus, He opened my eyes to recognize that every story I had learned was about Jesus. That the complete story throughout the Bible was about bringing glory to God through the revelation of His character in the person of Christ.

I could not contain the rush of excitement. Just the small glimpse of His glory overwhelmed me. I craved knowledge and began reading everything I could. I began in Romans and, to this day, it is one of my favorite books.

Ever since that day, I have been captured by the need to teach others about Jesus. In order to support my family, I remain employed as an engineer, but my time and commitments have been joyfully handed over to teaching and ministry. Around mid 2006, I began teaching occasional classes at my church. From the Fall of 2006 to present, I have served as the Lay Youth Pastor at our church. In 2010, I became a founding principal of an itinerant speaking ministry and have had several opportunities to speak at camps and schools here and in Europe. I am compelled to preach and teach the truth of the gospel at every opportunity. I share in Paul's sentiment: "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!"

It is an incredible privilege to be used by God to show Him to others and to watch as He matures them and opens their eyes up to the same realities that captivated me from the beginning. I want to move to full time ministry because God has placed the desire in my heart, and my heart is not settled anywhere else.