

## Joelle's Testimony

My journey as a Christian began when I was very young and I decided to follow Jesus when I was at Junos, which is now Girl Wiz Kidz. I asked Jesus to forgive me, and accepted him as my Saviour, but I don't think that my faith was every really put to the test until I was older. This was when I realised that I could either give up on being a Christian, and for a time I think that I might have begun to fall into this trap a bit. I stopped wanting to come to Church. All my friends were doing stuff on Sundays and I wanted to be there instead of at Church. But I realised that I could overcome this with the help of Jesus, and gradually he helped me to get my priorities right, and to put him first.

I first began to think about baptism at this year's Church Camp when Jonty brought up the subject in one of the talks. I also became friends with Sarah Grimm and over the summer we talked a lot as I found her to be a person who I could trust and who I could talk to. I was still thinking about baptism a lot over the summer holidays, but I still hadn't told anyone about it as I still wasn't sure. The subject of baptism still wouldn't go away though, and I felt as if I needed to talk to someone about it but I was too scared to. Then when Sarah was due to go back to uni we were all meant to meet up and go out for dinner. In the end though it ended up being just me and her, and I knew that it was too good an opportunity to miss. So I asked her about what made her want to get baptised and then I told her that I was thinking about it. One of the big things that had been worrying me about getting baptised was my age. So she showed me a verse from 1 Timothy chapter 4 which really helped me to make a decision: 'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity'.

Then in the next few days I really thought very hard about baptism and what to do about it. Then after the evening service one Sunday I told my mum that I wanted to get baptised and then I called Johnny. He told me about a Bible study on Sunday afternoons with Jonty. These really helped me as we started looking at what life means and how you should act out living your life as a Christian. Then we looked at baptism and how when you get baptised you are saying that, 'I now belong to God,' and that you want to carry on living and growing in God and obeying his laws.

Then I went to Letton Hall with Good News Hour and I really realised how much being a Christian has affected, and means, to me. I really felt that getting baptised was what God wanted me to do.