



# IN THE LOOP

## Happy New Year!

Welcome back, ladies. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with your family. As we go into the New Year so many people are talking about New Years resolutions. I want to challenge you to re-solve to start a new relationship with Jesus Christ. Whether you are already a believer or you haven't come to a point of accepting Him yet, there is always room to grow. Do you ever feel like you are running in a race and no matter how hard you try you just can't make it to the finish line? Like you have a weight tied around one of your legs that's so heavy you just aren't going to be able to make it. You can't finish the race and secure the prize God has for you until you become free of it. The extra weight that we carry around is excess baggage from our past. Some days can be so hard that we feel like giving up and getting out of the race. The good news is that God wants to take that burden from you so that you never have to carry it again. He doesn't want us to be weighed down by the choices or experiences of our past. He wants to forgive us and He wants to use those experiences to His glory. No matter what you have been through you can be used by God and encourage so many other women. So resolve to give God your burdens. Ask Him to set you free from your past, to heal you and to give you a new life of freedom in Him. In doing this you can experience the unconditional love and forgiveness and mercy that God offers us. He is an awesome God. Don't let any more years go by without really getting to know Him and experiencing the wonderful personal relationship that He offers us.

*Pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him for the life of your young children.*  
Lamentations 2:19

**God tells us to pray for our children.** It doesn't have to be long and drawn out or formal or fancy in anyway. But it does need to be specific. It's ok to be short and simple. Here's a few ideas.

**A servant heart:** Lord, please help my children develop servant hearts, that they may serve wholeheartedly "to the Lord, and not to men." Ephesians 6:7

**Courage:** May my children always "be strong and of good courage" in their character and in their actions. Deuteronomy 31:6

**Hope:** May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13