

My journey has been all about “waiting,” especially when it comes to dealing with grief. When I first came to Ransom Church, Angel, who’s on staff, was talking about **Harbor Families**, and it caught my attention. Before that, I had met a mom in my clinic who mentioned she was working with Harbor Families. That sparked my curiosity, and I thought it was amazing how they were helping kids in need.

So, when Ben, my husband, and I were church shopping, and we ended up at Ransom + it felt like a sign. I was really interested in Harbor Families and signed up to meet with Angel. I thought I’d walk in, sign up, and probably have a kid to help the next day. I was so ready! But then Angel told me I couldn’t sign up yet since Ben and I weren’t married at the time. I was wrecked. **I was in tears because I had this excitement about helping, and now I had to wait even longer.**

During that time of waiting, I joined the prayer team for Harbor Families. I started getting emails asking for prayer for different families. Then, one day, a different mom from Harbor Families came into my clinic. Come to find out, she was one of the moms I had been praying for! I was like, “Wait a minute, I think I was just praying for you!” It felt so surreal and like **a clear moment from God**. I shared that story at work, wanting everyone to see how God was working in connection to Harbor Families.

Later, my doctor mentioned a mom, named Olivia, going through breast cancer treatment who might benefit from Harbor Families. I thought that would be a perfect opportunity to connect her to the program. Eventually, those kids became the ones who came to live with Ben and I two years later. I was like, "Wow, God must have had this all planned out!"

When Ben and I got married, we were finally able to host kids. At first, we had no idea what to expect, but it was incredible. Tragically, though, the Olivia’s health continued to decline, and she ended up needing much more treatment. **Sitting with those kids through that process was tough.** It broke my heart to watch them not fully understand what was happening. During this waiting period, we welcomed the kids into our home, giving them a safe space until they could find their forever family. Just before Olivia passed away, she asked if we could keep the kids. That was a really hard decision; we prayed about it because we wanted to do the right thing. Eventually, we didn’t feel it was the right move, and letting go was extremely tough. **Trusting God through all of this was essential.**

What really kept me going was the community around us—friends, family, Olivia's friends, her church, and our church. One verse that really stuck with me was Proverbs 3:5-6: “***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.***” That became my rock during this time.

Now, I'm still involved with Harbor Families and have hosted other kiddos since. **Each experience brings its own challenges and rewards, but I’ve learned that we’re all God’s children, deserving of love.** If there’s one piece of advice I want to share with anyone feeling stuck in their waiting or grieving, it’s to talk to people who’ve been through similar struggles. It helps you feel less alone and more understood. And seriously, never underestimate the power of prayer. **Some of the clearest answers from God came when I felt completely broken.**

in the waiting + grief.