

Carrie's Story...It all began with Little Lambs

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Our family was introduced to the ECRC community when our oldest daughter started Little Lambs. I remember coming through the doors each week and being greeted by such friendly and positive people.

As the weeks and months went by and I was dropping my daughter off at Little Lambs I couldn't help but to recognize what an amazing place this was. I came from a very traditional church with pews and where kids were asked to be seen and not heard. I loved that this church was a place that people came to gather with one another on weekdays and not just Saturday evening and Sunday morning for Mass.

So, one day my husband and I were talking about what an awesome place these people could call their own when a light bulb went off. "*Why don't we go and check it out?*" It was very different than what we were used to, but we were willing to give it a try. The first time we went we sat quietly and watched all of these people greet each other with hugs and asking about their families. These people genuinely cared for one another and they were all like family. After the service we gathered our kids and when we got in the car we didn't say much. Then I looked over at my husband and he had a huge smile on his face. *This was the place that we had been looking for!* We go to service each week with the same excitement and leave with the same smile on our face. The one real main difference is that we now call those people in the seats part of our family!

What happened next is that I joined MOPS. It was a great place to connect with moms who are similar and different from me. It was a place that I could go to and feel like it was all going to be okay. I was able to talk about parenting, marriage, friendship and spiritual topics and not feel silly for not knowing all the answers. It is a place that allowed me to be vulnerable and to grow spiritually alongside of other amazing women.

MOPS taught me a lot about myself. It taught me that we are all on this journey of motherhood and to embrace each stage as it comes. It has helped me to grow spiritually. I met many women from all different levels on the scale of spirituality and it taught me to be more open with my feelings and my faith.

And, now I am a MOPS leader. I feel like MOPS made such a great impact in my life and I would love for other woman to share in this amazing journey. I feel like the ECRC community has changed my life forever and being more involved at this amazing place can only help my spiritually.

We are forever grateful for you and everything you do!

~Carrie