

# Full Circle

Joey Thompson



Hi my name is Joey. My life started out pretty rough but I was just a kid and didn't understand. It was all I knew so I figured it was the way it should be. At the age of four, my dad left us. After that, my mom started leaving us alone more and more. It went like that for years while my aunts watch and cared for us. At the age of five we moved to a new house, closer to my family. We spent about a year there and life started changing quickly. My mom met a guy named Jake and before long we were all living with him in Sandy, Utah.

It was about this time that my sister started to act out. She took her anger out on me for the next six years and it changed who I was. I shut down and started to feel hatred towards everyone around me. At the age of fourteen, my mom decided to send me to live with my aunt because of my sister. I felt abandoned and it got worse.

I spent most of my teenage years in and out of detention centers. I moved back in with my mom a year later but we never got along and were always fighting. When I turned seventeen, mom decided that I was too much to handle and kicked me out again.

I spent a year couch jumping and sleeping in parks. I finally made a decision to go to job corp. It started out great, but like most everything in my life up to that point, I quit and moved in with my sister. I spent the next year there watching the kids and working in a group home.

I was at home one day and found a link to the Salt Lake City Mission. As I was looking at the staff page, I discovered my father worked there. I was led to believe he was dead since I was a little kid. I called and we talked for some time about the Mission and other things and I let him back into my life.

About a year later I was kicked out of my sisters home and decided to join the Mission program. It was going good but I quit because I felt trapped. Before long I made a full loop and came back to the Mission. But this time around I was more mature, humbled and ready to grow up. Now I have realized how much God has helped me get here and put me in a peaceful state of mind. Now my past doesn't bother me and I am growing into the man God wants me to be. I feel like things are better than ever because God is real to me and I'm looking forward to my future and all I have to experience and share. - June 2011