

“ I grew up in a troubled home that left me with deep emotional scars.

*“I always dreaded coming home for the holidays. Whenever my parents and siblings got together, there was this underlying tension. One year it was like a bomb exploded. We shouted cruel, terrible things at each other. My three little nieces were crying, begging us to stop.*

*“In the end, we all apologized to each other, but the whole thing was so awful and nothing was ever resolved. For years afterwards, I suffered from depression and became estranged from my family and my husband, too. I moved into a tiny apartment and stayed inside for weeks, crying and sleeping on a mattress on the floor.*

*“That’s when God lifted me up. I got an amazing job and started getting counseling. At first, I didn’t tell anyone because I felt ashamed, that people would judge me. Then, I realized counseling was a Godsend; my therapist was an incredible, Godly woman! I finally found healing and peace in my life.”*



To protect her identity, Marianne is not the woman pictured above.

