



Life Groups Stories

Patrick and Jill Taylor live in Homewood with their son, Will, and dog, Ollie. Patrick works in pharmaceutical sales, and Jill is a Realtor with RealtySouth. In their spare time, they enjoy traveling, cooking, and remodeling homes. They have lived in Birmingham since getting married in August of 2014.

My name is Jill Taylor, and my husband, Patrick, and I joined Dawson in the summer of 2015. One of the big things that drew us to Dawson was the community we experienced through the Life Group we had been attending while we were visiting the church. After joining, we became very involved with our Life Group and formed what are now some of our sweetest friendships. We had no idea how much we would need this group when we had our first son in the summer of 2017. Our son, Will, was born at 23 weeks gestation...almost 4.5 months early. It was the scariest and most uncertain time of our life, and our Life Group showed up in big ways to love on and support us during this time. The week that Will was born they brought us a care package: a pair of tiny boxing gloves with Joshua 1:9 written on them, and a set of handwritten Scripture cards, bound together with a binder clip. Each individual Scripture was hand-picked by a member of our Life Group. On really hard days in the NICU, when alarms were going off and things were almost too much for me to bear, I would sit by Will's isolette and read those

Scripture cards over and over, reminding myself of God's promises. Those

handwritten Scripture cards and the mini boxing gloves

that hung next to Will's bed were our most prized

possessions as we walked our NICU journey. I

will never forget a few weeks after Will was

born, we thought we might be losing him to

a very aggressive infection. Our Life Group

called an impromptu prayer meeting at the

church one night as things were looking bad.

They prayed and begged God for healing of

our Will. Several of them will tell you they have

never felt God's presence like that night. Shortly after the prayer meeting,

we got miraculous news that Will's stats were changing and he began to

improve. And two months later, this same group was able to throw us a baby

shower in the very room where they had begged God to heal Will. They fed

us from June to November of that year, they cut our grass, did household chores,

and literally were there for anything we needed. On Mother's Day of this past year, we

were able to dedicate Will at Dawson, declaring his life verse as Joshua 1:9, the very verse

that was on his boxing gloves. We are forever grateful for the community we have at Dawson,

and especially for our Life Group, who made sure we didn't have to walk this journey alone.

