

Finding Yourself

By Nadia Abu Ata

My name is Nadia Abu Ata, and I'm an Arab-Christian, born and raised in East Jerusalem.

I was a participant in Jerusalem Peacebuilders twice and then I was a junior counselor. That experience has impacted me differently than most people, because I got to be on the receiving end and the giving end. I learned what it meant to be a participant and what it meant to be a leader.

How to lead other people and how what characteristics I should have as a person and how I should develop myself – these became more than ideas or just ink on paper. I got the chance to be a junior counselor which meant that I was facilitating the environment, the proper environment, for other individuals younger than I was to share their thoughts and feelings and hopes and dreams.

Listening to other people, in whose place I was only a few years ago, made a difference in me because it showed that no matter where you find yourself right now, you're going to be in a different place in a few years regardless of whether you see that now or not.

So now that I'm finished with the program, I'm continuing with my academic career. It's actually just starting right now. I am studying for my standardized exam to enter the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. I'm currently doing a few courses in mathematics, Hebrew, and physics in hopes of entering the university next year.

And I hope to continue working with Jerusalem Peacebuilders and nurturing this love of leadership and seeing where this journey of discovery takes me - both with my academic career and with Jerusalem Peacebuilders.

Enjoy this testimonial on video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iOeVS9DplU>