2023
Grade 5

I have felt close to God many times throughout my life, but never as close as I did recently, when my dog became extremely sick.

My dog, Mullet, is a 13-year-old Pointer mix that my parents rescued in Atlanta before I was born. We have grown up together and I had never really thought about him not being in my life and getting old and dying before he got so sick.

One day, he suddenly became sick, could barely stand, he could barely hold his eyes open, he had a cough and my family all felt like the end was near for him. Our hearts were broken and we were all in shock that he had taken such a sudden turn for the worse out of nowhere. This was going to be a huge loss for my family because Mullet is not just any dog. He has been a best friend and protector to me and my sisters, he helps my mom in the kitchen by cleaning plates and crumbs off the floor and most importantly a very best friend to my Dad who was in the Marine Corp.

My parents prepared us to say our goodbyes before they took Mullet to the vet. I can still feel how sad I felt that day and how my heart actually felt broken. Before Mullet was carried to the car I asked for a private moment with him. I told him what a good dog he was and how much I loved him. When I prayed with him I heard something in my head say "that he will have a little more time with us and to pray for strength for him." So that is what I did.

I expected my parents to pull back in our driveway without our dog….to my surprise he came back home!!! He had pneumonia and was put on lots of medicine to help him get better. Thankfully he pulled through!

Now, every day I thank God for the time he has given us with Mullet. God was with me to give me strength to be strong in case it was time for Mullet to go to Heaven and he continues to be with me and remind me that each day that Mullet is with us is special. Although I know my dog cannot live forever, I am at peace knowing that when it is his time to go God will be waiting on him to welcome him into Heaven and continue to be with me as I grieve his loss.

Of course, most people agree that losing someone in your family or losing a pet is very sad. When my grandfather died I had that feeling in my heart that God would help me and He was there for me. I have never felt that feeling before, and If I had, I'd never realized it.

When he died I was crying a lot. My family tried comforting me, but I knew the person comforting me was God. I felt His Spirit in my heart, and when I did I knew he was going to help me through this tough time. I heard Him in my mind saying, "Everything will be alright, I'm here for you."

He said this over and over again until I was comforted enough to get through the day. A few hours after my grandfather died, I had an amazing sign from God that he was ok: a double rainbow. In the Bible a rainbow is a sign from God saying, "Everything is alright now."

The night when my grandfather died I couldn't fall asleep. I was crying a lot that night, but not as much as I had in the morning. I started praying to God that night to thank Him for comforting me earlier that day, and to ask if he would help me fall asleep. I heard a whisper say, "Don't worry, he is okay." I then felt a hand on my shoulder, and I finally fell asleep. Every single night after that I have thanked God for helping me through those tough times, and I still feel His presence in my room every night.