

2025 Grade 7

Finding God through My Teacher

There are moments in life that seem ordinary at first but later reveal themselves to be pivotal. For me, that moment came the day _____ walked into my life. I didn't know it then, but she would become a guiding light who helped me discover not only my own potential but also a profound closeness to God that I had never experienced before.

Before _____'s influence, my relationship with God was shaky, at best. Life often felt like a collection of disconnected struggles, and I couldn't see how faith could make a difference. Prayers felt empty, like whispers into an empty void, and I carried a quiet sense of hopelessness wherever I went. But then _____ entered my world, bringing not just her passion for teaching but an unwavering faith in the goodness of people—and in me.

_____ wasn't just a teacher in the conventional sense. She radiated kindness, but it wasn't the soft, fleeting kind. It was the kind of kindness that felt like sunlight breaking through storm clouds. She believed in the power of faith, though she rarely spoke about it outright. Instead, her actions communicated something far deeper than words ever could. She saw potential in me that I couldn't see in myself, and she refused to let me give up.

It was during one particular moment that everything changed. I was having one the hardest weeks of my life. A string of failures had left me feeling worthless, and I had convinced myself that there was no reason to try anymore. My grades were slipping, my friendships felt fragile, and I questioned whether I mattered to anyone at all. One afternoon, _____ pulled me aside after class and said something that I will never forget.

"I see how hard you're trying, even when you think no one notices. I want you to know that you're not alone, and you never will be."

Her words hit me like a wave. For the first time in what felt like forever, someone truly saw me—not just the surface-level me but the struggling, imperfect, yearning person underneath. It was as if God Himself was speaking through her, reminding me that I wasn't forgotten, that I mattered. She didn't stop there. Over the weeks that followed, _____ helped me rebuild myself piece by piece. She stayed late to tutor me when I was falling behind. She encouraged me to write when I was afraid to express myself. And she taught me how to find the beauty in life's smallest moments, from the way sunlight filters through the classroom blinds to the quiet joy of helping a classmate.

Through her unwavering belief in me, I began to see God in a way I never had before. I realized that God's love isn't always about grand miracles or life-altering revelations. Sometimes, it's as simple and profound as someone refusing to give up on you, even when you've given up on yourself. _____ became a living testament to God's grace, showing me that faith is not just a feeling but an action—a commitment to love, to hope, and to uplift those around you.

Because of her, I started praying again—not out of desperation, but out of gratitude. I began to see that every challenge I faced was not a punishment but an opportunity to grow closer to God. And I realized that God's presence is often most evident in the people He places in our lives.

_____ didn't just help me become a better student; she helped me become a better person. Her faith in me taught me to have faith in myself, and more importantly, in God. Today, I carry her lessons with me in everything I do. I try to spread the same kindness and belief in others that she showed me, knowing that even the smallest act of love can bring someone closer to God.

When I think about my journey, I no longer see a string of struggles. I see a path that led me to this moment—a moment of gratitude, of faith, and of purpose. And at the heart of it all is _____, a teacher, a mentor, and a vessel of God's love.

In the Midst of Darkness

When I was little, I always enjoyed looking through the picture bibles and trying to read the important messages, but never realized that they were special. Now that I am older, I wish to memorize the bible. Everyday of my life has many opportunities to read scripture and to try and become spiritually fed with the words that Jesus said.

Last year, my family suffered through a tough time. My mom was expecting a baby and we were so curious to see what the gender would be. One day she went to the doctor for a checkup and the screen showed there was no heartbeat. Everyone was shocked. The baby was named Honor Christian. All of our friends from the Fathers of Mercy Catholic Church were so generous giving us meals and saying comforting words. I felt like I was going to cry. Soon everyone went back to normal, but that memory kept a hole in my heart that never seemed to go away.

Whenever I visit Honor's grave, I don't cry but I feel peace in knowing that I already have a sibling in heaven. "His mercy endures forever" is a quote that I think about all the days of my life. During this time, I felt speechless and my questions about Honor's passing still linger. My mom once said, "grieving is one thing but crying and thinking about how Honor is still present with us made the phrase 'to grieve' become 'tears of joy.'"

My Mom had a dream a couple of weeks before the passing. She said it was so clear that it felt real. "I was in the kitchen area and I saw Jesus standing a few inches away holding something before my eyes. It was a newborn. In that moment, I knew it was a sign that my child was in His arms and would be taken care of." When the day came, she told us. We were confused because Honor was healthy the whole pregnancy. That dream shows me to trust God more than I can trust myself.

In the midst of darkness, I feel stronger and I have grown closer to God, to try and follow his example and show how His unconditional love can change people like me through the most difficult times. Honor is the perfect inspiration for me so that is why I made this essay based on a sibling I will love always and forever till eternity when I see the one, Jesus, face to face and Honor right beside him.