

## God Will Sit Next To Me

Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”



Many dogs are afraid of thunderstorms. Ours is afraid of just about everything. Just now she skittered away when I crinkled some paper too loudly. Her favorite place to be, thunder or no, is sitting next to one of her people. She has good reason to be nervous: she came to our family as a rescue dog, who had been abandoned, so she must have frightening memories. She likes to be snuggled up against someone she trusts, even if she does still tremble a bit. When she is with us, she has no reason to be afraid or terrified. We're not perfect, not all-powerful, or even always good, but we are pretty well equipped to take care of a 12 lb. dog, especially to protect her from the scariest thing of all - thunderstorms. The thunder is still there, but she can sit next to someone bigger and stronger than she is.

I have someone much better who I can sit next to when I am frightened. Someone who promises to never leave me nor forsake me. God is with me. He is powerful and good, and He loves me. Sometimes the things I'm frightened of are a real threat. Sometimes they are as harmless as thunder. Often, I don't know. Will It happen? What if It does? . . . If It happens, whatever It is, “The Lord my God goes with me; He will never leave me nor forsake me.” God does not always prevent It, but He goes through It with me, right by my side, and He offers me comfort when I tremble. I feel safest when I remember, in the midst of the thunder, that God is sitting right next to me. When I focus on His presence, I can even feel peace.

*God, I believe your promise to go with me, to never leave me; please help me to remember this truth. Amen*

Megan Retzlaff