

The Lantern at Pine Ridge



An original October story inspired by the spirit of faith-filled mountain adventures

The wind stirred the golden leaves along Pine Ridge Trail as Mia hurried toward home. She had promised Grandpa she would be back before sunset—but now the sky was turning orange, and she was still carrying a basket of apples from Mrs. Harper’s orchard.

“Why did I stop to help pick up those fallen branches?” Mia muttered. “Now I’m late.”

A faint cry came from behind a cluster of bushes.

Mia stopped. “Hello?”

There, tangled in a patch of thorny vines, was a small brown dog with a red collar. It whined and pawed at the ground.

“Oh, you poor thing.” Mia set down her basket. Carefully, she pulled the vines away one by one.

The dog licked her hand and wagged its tail.

Just then, a thick fog rolled between the pine trees.

Mia looked down the trail. The path home had disappeared.

“I don’t know which way to go,” she whispered.

The dog trotted a few steps ahead, then turned back and barked. Around its collar was a tiny metal tag: Ranger Station—Pine Ridge.

“Do you know the way?” Mia asked.

The dog barked again and started down a narrow trail. Mia picked up her apple basket and followed. Soon, she saw a warm light glowing through the fog: a lantern hanging outside the ranger station.

Inside, Ranger Cole smiled in surprise. “You found Scout! We’ve been looking for him all afternoon.”

Mia’s shoulders relaxed. “He found me, too.”

Ranger Cole pointed to a map on the wall. “Your grandfather’s cabin is just past the old bridge. Scout can lead you safely there.”

As Mia stepped back into the cool evening air, she looked at the little dog beside her. Being late had felt like a disaster. But if she had hurried past the bushes, Scout might still be trapped—and Mia might still be lost.

She smiled. “Thank You, God, for helping me see that a delay can become an adventure.”

Scout barked, the lantern glowed behind them, and together they headed toward home.

Want to hear what happens when Mia reaches the old bridge—and discovers who has been waiting for her? Listen to the full dramatized Discovery Mountain adventure:

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