



## **Buddy's Tail**

### **Discussion Questions - Christian Supplement**

1. Buddy Boutonniere is a very saintly character. Explain some things about him that make him seem like a saint.
2. Sonny is an important dog in Haven. Who does he remind you of in the Bible?
3. Buddy dies, but is brought back to life. What does Buddy's story have in common with the Bible's accounts of Jesus bringing people back from the dead?
4. MacKenzie had issues with her mother, but finds out that Jean had good reasons for sending her off for training. Should MacKenzie ask Jean's forgiveness for being resentful all those years?
5. Does heaven have rules? Why or why not?
6. Is heaven organized? Who is the boss? Do others have jobs?
7. Jesus loved animals. All creatures are part of God's creation, and when we treat animals with love and respect, we are showing our love of God. Which humans in the story behave in this way?
8. When people like the Hummer driver treat animals cruelly, they must not be able to see their own connection to other creatures. If this connection is lost, who else are they cut off from?

9. Buddy gets into trouble, and he gets punished. But even when he breaks the Rule of Equi a second time and has to go before the Communal Tribunal, nobody suggests he should be thrown out of Paradise Valley. Has anyone ever been thrown out of heaven?

10. MacKenzie is always trying to help others, but there is a lesson she needs to learn. She learns it from Buddy's example. What is it?

11. Free will is a wonderful thing, but responsibility comes with it. A person, or a poodle, must chose wisely. Did Buddy make good choices?

12. Holy Oak marks Buddy as special by giving him a fabulous tail. As Christians, how are we marked as special?

13. Symbols like fabulous tails are often used to say something about the ones who wears or carries them. Can you think of Christian symbols that communicate important meanings?

14. Canines give up something when they enter Haven and get something else in return. What do we give up when we go to heaven? What do we gain?