

When I was a young boy at the age of 4, I was diagnosed with a condition called hypothyroidism. Basically my thyroid doesn't work right and I have no metabolism. This led to obesity, lack of energy, and other medical problems. I had to have many tests, bloodwork, nutrition meetings, and doctor appointments to figure out what they needed to do to help me.

I had a hard time when I was younger because some of the kids made fun of me because of my weight. I was a heavy kid and it looked like I just sat around and ate. But I didn't. I liked sports and other activities I just gained weight really easy. Most of my friends didn't seem to notice my weight but there were a few that weren't very nice.

When people made fun of me it helped me to see that when others have problems in their lives to have compassion for them and try to understand the difficulties they may be going through. I feel like God has played a part in my life with my medical condition in teaching me to use my gifts of understanding, compassion and being a good listener to others. When I see someone struggling with a problem I try to comfort them and help them as much as I can to feel better about themselves.

A friend of mine has depression and talked about ending his life. I talked to him and told him how important he was to his family and friends. I told him to talk to his parents. He did and they got him the help he needed. The funny thing is, this boy was one of the ones who used to make fun of me when I was younger because of my weight. We became friends later on and he apologized to me and I forgave him.

In conclusion, I always try as much as I can to use the gifts God gave me of compassion, caring for others, understanding, listening, and not quitting when things get tough in my life. My family helps me unwrap the gifts I got from God each step of my life, and I hope others can have people in their lives to help them unwrap the gifts they got from God for the greater good.