

"The Christmas Family" Sample Pages #03
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(Actions during the next part of narrative: Daniel slowly comes out of his reverie and smiles. He reaches out and takes down the baby Jesus figure from the manger scene on the table, and looks at it intently for a few long moments, then reverently places it back where it belongs.)

Narrator: Well, the scene faded from my sight as I came back to my reality. I could understand how the shepherds felt, because it seemed as if I had been there with them. But as the glow I'd felt when visualizing the story faded, I began to feel as if it was somehow more than just being caught up in a story... it seemed as if the invitation to come see the Baby had been given to me, personally. I felt a desire to see Him, that must have been as strong as that felt by the shepherds once they'd heard about Him. Somehow I knew that the answers to the questions I'd begun to have could only be found in the one that came on that night, the most wonderful night in the history of the world.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Daniel's head comes up as he feels he is being watched. He looks all around, until he sees a dark shape partially hidden just outside the door.)

But suddenly I became aware that I was being watched... I wasn't alone any more. Someone was standing in the shadows outside the door, observing me. A tingle of fright danced down my spine. My mind entertained the thought that perhaps it was the Ghost of Christmas Future come to visit, dark and bleak.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Daniel turns his chair toward the door and fearfully peers into the shadows with an apprehensive expression. It turns to relief as Dr. Spencer, an older man, steps more fully into the room and comes over to him.)

As I wheeled around to see more clearly, they stepped into the dim light. I breathed a sigh of relief when I realized it was only Dr. Spencer, the staff physician and psychologist. He was a fatherly man, and I liked him a great deal, for he really seemed to care about me and the other children.

Calling me by his nickname for me, "Danny-boy," he asked how I was feeling.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: as they talk, Dr. Spencer kneels beside Danny and moves his legs, examining his knees and flexing his ankles a little.)

I told him I was fine, but I wished I was stronger. As he knelt beside my chair and examined my legs, he asked how I had been doing there at the home. I guess he was concerned about my emotional health also. I said I was happy enough, but I wished I could have a real family, ones that took care of me because they loved me, not because they were paid to. I admitted that sometimes I felt like I was worthless and had no hope.

At this, Dr. Spencer took me by both of my shoulders, and said some words I have never forgotten to this day.

"Danny-boy," he said firmly, "don't you dare think like that. You are a priceless gem, infinitely special to our Heavenly Father. He has a plan for you that will lead you down the paths of greatness. We all go through tough times, but we can look to God and trust Him to bring us through. And He WILL bring you through, if you open your heart to Him and let Him give you his strength."

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Dr. Spencer takes a small pocket New Testament from his coat pocket and hands it to Daniel.)

It might be a little surprising for some to hear a Doctor talk like that, but he believed in the power of prayer and faith more than he trusted pills and psychology. He took a small New Testament out of his pocket, and opened it up to the flyleaf, where he had written my name with a message.

I read the scripture he had quoted, Jeremiah 29:11, that said, "I know the plans I have for you, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." This was followed by a line that said "Don't forget us when you are blessed."