

**"The Christmas Family" Sample Pages #04**  
**Written by Frederick Passmore**

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Daniel bows his head and clasps his hands as he prays below.)

Narrator: The words that Grandpa had spoken seemed directed right at me. The scriptures inviting me to come to the Savior, to be adopted into His family, to have God as my Father, all spoke to my young heart strongly. So right there, on Christmas Eve, I bowed my head, and praying along with Grandpa, I asked Jesus to come into my heart. I had heard of Him; I had come to see him, as the shepherds did, and I made room for him in my heart. I couldn't turn him away, who came so far to save me, and suffered so much. I gladly swung wide the door of my heart, and He came in. From that moment on, there was hope and faith I had never known before.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Daniel lifts his head, and turns his chair toward the front of the stage. His face has a peaceful and satisfied expression. The sadness and hopelessness has been replaced with joy and hope.)

I knew that I belonged, that I was loved; that a wonderful future awaited me, and someday Jesus would invite me to come to his house, where I would live forever with the family of God. The joy of Christmas came alive in me, and would shine brightly from that day forward.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: The children and Miss Dickenson all come back into the room, and the kids react to the pile of presents under the tree. She announces that it's time for the special Christmas guest, and Mr. Clements as Santa comes into the room with a bagful of presents. The children all gather around him excitedly, and he leads them offstage in a parade line.)

Narrator: Just then, Miss Dickenson and the other kids returned from their caroling trip. They were all so excited about the presents under the tree, but Miss Dickenson said they would get to open those in the morning. But right now, the special Christmas guest she had told them about was here. Mr. Cleme.... I mean, Santa, came in with his bag of presents. The tradition was that they would all go into the main entry foyer, where the biggest tree was, as Santa handed out the gifts he had brought. So off they all went.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: As Daniel follows the line, Miss Dickenson stops him and motions him to come over by the tree. She explains to him what his surprise is.)

As I was beginning to follow, Miss Dickenson stopped me. I wondered for a moment if I really was too big for Santa's presents. But she smiled kindly as she told me to stay behind, that the surprise she has for me couldn't fit in Santa's sack. "Daniel," she explained, "you remember the last couple that you stayed with, who had to let you come back?"

I told her I did, that I had really hoped I could stay with them. I had been sorely disappointed when they had to leave town.

Miss Dickenson explained that they had been expecting a large inheritance, but it was contested, and a lawsuit was filed against them. But now, the lawsuit has been settled, and they had received the large inheritance. Miss Dickenson beamed as she told me they come back to take me home for good, and the adoption papers had just went through. Dr. Spencer had given me a final examination earlier, and pronounced me well enough to go. They were waiting for me in the administrator's office to take me to my new home.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Miss Dickenson moves beside Daniel and puts her arm around him as she stoops over.)

Narrator: I was so shocked that I hardly reacted at first. Mrs. Dickenson put her arm around my shoulder and told me that although she was happy for me, she would miss me terribly. As the news sunk in, I realised just how much I would miss her as well. There was one last thing I wanted to ask

her, and if I didn't do it now I might not be able to. I asked Miss Dickenson why she had come here, and stayed all those years.

(Actions during the next part of narrative: Miss Dickenson stands and turns away slightly, her arms wrapped around herself as if cold. She pauses, looking away, then slowly begins to tell him the story.)

After hesitating a moment, and looking off into space as if gazing at a scene that caused her pain, she answered me. She told me that when she was younger, her husband had died in the war, and then a house fire had killed all three of her children. She could have given up in sorrow, but she turned to God for comfort. Being a mother without her children, she was led here, where there were children who were without a mother. They had become her family and her children. Now her family was a large one, and one day when she joined her children in heaven, she would bring many more with her. That answered, there was no putting off the hard goodbye. Miss Dickenson moved first and held me close for a moment.