



PENNY AND THE CHRISTMAS STAR

Adapted from Helen Frazee-Bower's story by the same title
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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Christmas is the perfect time to encourage your students to give themselves to the Lord. Here is a story that will help them to understand the true meaning of *Dedication*. Like Penny, they will learn from the wise men that the King desires the love of their hearts, their prayers and their obedience. An interesting object lesson makes a double impact.

ONLINE HELPS

Free keyword sheets are available for this story. Visit shop.biblevisuals.org and search for item #K5275.



Show Illustration #1

It was Christmas Eve. Penny and Peter sat on the big braided rug in the living room warming their toes as the flames crackled in the fireplace. They waited excitedly for Mother to tell them the wonderful truths of the first Christmas. Finally she was ready. She opened her Bible, and in her special way she told and read how God sent His Son to earth hundreds of years ago.

(Teacher: This would be the ideal time to tell the Christmas narrative from God's Word.)



Show Illustration #3

There was one star, brighter and more beautiful than all the rest. It shone with such luster that it made a silvery path right down to her windowsill. It was such a wonderful, shining path that Penny thought it would be great fun to walk upon it. But of course she couldn't do that, for she was just a little girl in her nightgown. And it was Christmas Eve and she must go to sleep. But the star kept smiling down at her and reaching its long fingers of light to her. Presently she reached out her own fingers to meet its fingers. They closed upon hers, and she felt herself being drawn right through the window and out upon the shining path.

The world was beautiful all around her. The trees wore silver leaves; the little birdhouse in the garden had silver gables; even the crimson berries on the holly bush were silver. And in the midst of all these shining things, Penny walked down a silver path wherever the star led her.

They passed Susan's house, the post office and the school which she and Peter attended. They passed everything she had ever known. They walked far beyond the edge of the city until they came, at last, to a great desert. It stretched for miles all around her and Penny walked between silver sand dunes.



Show Illustration #2

It was really hard for Penny and Peter to go to sleep that night.

Some time after they had been tucked under their covers, Penny called softly to her brother across the hall. "Peter, are you asleep?"

"Not yet."

"What do you think we'll get for Christmas?"

"Oh, whatever we asked for, I suppose," Peter answered.

"And we usually ask, too," Penny added. "You know something, Peter? When Mother was telling us about the birth of Jesus tonight, I kept thinking about something. We celebrate Christmas to honor His birth. But we think more of ourselves than we do of Him. When He was born, everyone came bringing Him gifts. Now it seems we get all the presents and we never think of Him at all. It did make me a little ashamed. Did you feel ashamed too, Peter?"

There was no answer, for Peter was sound asleep. Penny lay looking into the darkness of her quiet room, but she was not afraid. Beyond the dark outline of the window frame, the sky was thick with stars, and their beauty grew until it filled all the darkness.



Show Illustration #4

She had no way of knowing how long or how far she had traveled. Suddenly she saw some men on camels riding across the land. They drew up beside her and offered her a ride.

Penny remembered that her mother had told her never to ride with strangers. But these men looked wise and kind. Besides, she had always wanted to ride on a camel!