

## Chapter 1

### IN GRANDMOTHER'S ATTIC

The wheels of the train were singing a queer little song as they turned swiftly round and round. Clickety, click, click, the wheels sang on as the train rolled down the track.

Ruth was sitting by a window in the train. She said to her brother, "I like to hear the queer song the wheels are making."

"I like to hear the whistle of the train when it blows for road crossings." Bobby smiled. "Listen to it now."

Mother smiled and said to the children, "I can see that you two are having a good time on the train."

"But we will have more fun when we get to grandfather's farm," Bobby said quickly.

"Oh, mother, it was certainly kind of grandfather and grandmother to invite us to spend the summer with them on the farm," Ruth said as she stood up and put her face close to the window. "I can hardly wait until we get there."

"It won't be long-now, children. The train is about to come to the station. It is time to get our suitcases together."

"T-o-o-o-o!" said the whistle, signaling that the train would stop at the station.

"Ding, Dong!" rang the bell.

The train began to slow down for a stop. Ruth and Bobby picked up their suitcases and walked with mother to the door of the train.

## STORIES JESUS TOLD AND HOW BOBBY AND RUTH LOVED THEM

They saw two persons standing on the platform waving to them. "Oh, there they are!" cried the children. "There are grandmother and grandfather."

As the train stopped, the children ran down the steps into grandmother's arms. Soon the suitcases and Ruth and Bobby and mother were in the car. Chug, chug, the old car wheezed as it bumped along over the country road.

"Grandfather," asked one of the children, "as soon as we get to your farm, will you take us out to see the horses and the cow and the big apple trees?"

Grandfather smiled. "Yes, Ruth and Bobby, I will be glad to take you. But it might be raining. I see some black clouds coming now."

In a few minutes there were big splashes on the windshield. Soon the rain was coming down hard. When the car stopped by grandfather's big farmhouse, Ruth and Bobby had to run into the house, because the rain was still coming down fast.

Ruth and her brother sat down in the front room. They didn't look happy. They had wanted to go out and see the horses and the cow and the big apple trees.

Grandmother asked, "Would you children like to play upstairs in the attic?"

"Yes, yes!" they cried. "It would be great fun to do that." Then they ran across the room and up the stairs.

In the attic were many things to play with - toys, old clothes for dress-up play, bottles, and old-fashioned dishes on the shelves. Up on a high shelf Ruth saw a strange-looking dish.

"Let's take it down," said Ruth.

## STORIES JESUS TOLD AND HOW BOBBY AND RUTH LOVED THEM

Bobby climbed on a chair and handed the queer dish down to his sister. "What can it be?" Ruth wanted to know.

"We can take it downstairs and ask grandmother."

Ruth carried the strange-looking dish carefully and went to grandmother. "What is this?"

"That is an old-fashioned lamp," grandmother told them.

"A lamp!" the children exclaimed. "How does it make a light?"

"Well, first we must put some oil inside. Next we must trim the wick, and then we can light the lamp."

The children watched as grandmother put oil in the lamp. They saw her trim the wick and put it down into the oil. She lighted a match and touched it to the wick. A tiny glow began to cover the wick, and they watched it grow into a bright flame shining up from the lamp.

"Oh, doesn't it give a lovely yellow light?" Ruth exclaimed as she held her hands toward the lamp.

Bobby asked, "Could we let it be our lamp tonight?"

Grandmother nodded her head. She wanted to help keep Bobby and Ruth from being homesick, especially since mother didn't stay long, but had gone on a trip to meet their father. "Yes, we shall set the lamp on the fireplace mantel tonight. We can let it burn while I tell you a story."

The children were eager for story time to come. After supper they went to the fireplace, and grandmother let them put the lamp on the mantel. What a bright yellow light the lamp made! For some time the children sat and watched it burn.

Bobby said, "It must have been fun to live long ago when people used lamps like these."

## STORIES JESUS TOLD AND HOW BOBBY AND RUTH LOVED THEM

Grandmother began, "I will tell you a story about some girls who took lamps to a party one night. It is a story that Jesus told to His disciples."

### Ten Girls and a Wedding Party

Once there were ten girls who were invited to a wedding party. Each one was to take a lamp. Each girl was to keep her lamp burning until the wedding was over.

Five of the girls said, "We will take extra oil with us, 'because we want our lamps to keep burning.'"

But the other five girls said, "We don't want to take extra oil."

The ten girls went to the house where the wedding was to be held. They carried their lamps with them. It was not yet time to go inside. The bridegroom had not come, and the girls sat down to wait. They waited and waited.

The ten lamps kept burning.

At midnight someone cried, "Behold, the bridegroom is coming. Let us go out to meet him."

The five girls who had taken extra oil had their lamps burning brightly. But the other five girls didn't have any light left in their lamps. They ran away quickly to a store to buy some more oil.

While they were gone, the bridegroom came. He opened the door to the house and invited everyone to come inside. The five girls who had bright lamps were ready, and they went in to the wedding party.

Then the door was shut and locked.

## STORIES JESUS TOLD AND HOW BOBBY AND RUTH LOVED THEM

Soon the five girls who had gone to buy oil came back. They wanted to get in, but the door was locked. They knocked and knocked on the door, but no one would let them inside.

The girls said, "We should have taken more oil for our lamps. We have missed the wedding party."

Grandmother smiled at the children and said, "Jesus wants us to be like the five girls who took oil for their lamps. He wants us to keep our lives all ready for Him. We can do this by reading the Bible and by doing what the Bible tells us to do."

"I like to hear mother read from the Bible," said Bobby.

"I do, too," Ruth agreed.

Grandmother added, "Jesus is happy when boys and girls love the Bible. There is a verse that tells us that the Bible is like a lamp. The verse says, 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.' Psalm 119:105. That would be a good verse to learn."