



## Where is the Baby Jesus?

### A Christmas Story

“Grandma,” five-year-old David asked, “can we please put up the Christmas decoration together?”

“Of course, dear” replied his grandmother Gloria, “but let's start with the Nativity scene”.

“OK, but I want to unwrap them all by myself”.

“Let's do it together,” she suggested.

Carefully they unwrapped all the pieces, but David noticed that Baby Jesus was missing and asked where it was. His grandmother said she would tell him the story about why there was no Baby Jesus for their manger.

She began her story by saying, “This happened many years ago. It was our first Christmas together as a married couple. Your grandfather and I did not have any Christmas decorations, so I decided to purchase what we needed.

“I went to a store that had lots of Christmas decorations so I could get as many as possible in just one trip. I saw a very special nativity scene and I knew it was the one I would like to have. There was a little boy there about your age, with his mother. They were looking at the same nativity scene.”

“The little boy had the baby Jesus in his hand and would not put it back. He told his mother that he did not want to put the Baby Jesus back because he wanted to keep him with him all the time, not just at Christmas.”

“I knew what I had to do. I told the boy that he could keep the Baby Jesus, but that I would like him to do me a favour and promise me he would also be faithful to take the Baby Jesus with him when he went to church each Sunday. He asked me where the church was, I wrote the address down on a piece of paper for his mother, and he promised he would bring her,too.”

“For many years that little boy came to church with his mother. Until he grew up and went away to college, he always had the Baby Jesus with him in his pocket, and he usually had his hands in his pockets, too!”

“Whatever happened to that little boy?” asked David.

“Well I think I will wait until Christmas Eve to tell you the rest of the story,” she told him.

On Christmas Eve, David arrived with his mom and dad and they all went off to the Christmas Eve service. David was anxious to have his grandmother finish the story, but she said he would have to wait until after the service. She also told him he must listen very carefully to the pastor. The pastor's sermon

was all about the Christmas story and how Jesus came down to earth as a little baby to fulfil God's promise that He would always be with us, even to the end of our days. David listened carefully, but was anxious for the service to be over.

On the way out of church Gloria took David's hand and together they went to shake hands with the pastor. Gloria spoke softly to the pastor, and he gave her a big hug. He then bent to shake hands with David. He held out his hand to David and shook his hand.

He also held out his other hand for David to see. There in his hand was the Baby Jesus, the very one that was missing from his grandmother's Nativity scene. He looked into David's eyes and said, " your grandmother gave me the Baby Jesus many years ago when I was about your age. Tonight it is time for me to give him to you. Someday you will find just the right little boy and you can pass it on. When you give Jesus away, He will stay with that person forever."

David beamed, now he knew why his grandmother waited for just the right time for him to know the rest of the story. He now understood that she was happy because the Baby Jesus she gave away would be passed on, and on, and on.

This Christmas let us all look for an opportunity to give the message of God's love in Jesus to someone who needs Him. You never know the difference one person, with faith can make.

May you all find Jesus in your Christmas celebrations!