



"God sent the angel."

Gabriel Visits Zechariah - Luke 1:8-11

Granny B carefully took five candles out of the box sitting on the porch. She walked over to a little wreath and placed four of the candles around the wreath and one in the center. Just then, she heard two of her favorite friends walking up the path. Delbert and Lello saw Granny B and ran up the stairs to say hello.

"Hello, my little ones. Would you like to join me for a while?" Granny B asked.

"Of course!" exclaimed Delbert.

"What are you doing, Granny B?" Lello asked, as she took a peek into the box.

"I'm decorating for Christmas. It's one of my favorite things to do at Christmas time. What do you like about Christmas?" Granny B asked, as she sat down in her rocking chair.

"Haw! I have lots of favorites, especially putting the angel on top of the tree!" Delbert answered.

"My favorite thing about Christmas is giving my mommy her present," Lello said sweetly. Lello noticed the wreath and candles. "Granny B, what are those?"

Granny B smiled. "That's my Christmas Candle wreath." Granny B noticed Lello's confused expression. "We light Christmas Candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. What shape is the wreath, Lello?"

"A circle," Lello answered proudly.

"That's right. The wreath reminds us of God's love because like a circle which has no end, God's love never ends," Granny B explained.

"Granny B, can we light all the candles now?" Delbert asked excitedly.

Granny B shook her head no as she explained they would only light one candle today. Each week, leading up to Christmas, they would light another one. Finally, on Christmas Day, they would light the last candle in the center. Granny B stood up, walked over to the candles, and lit the first one. The three friends stood looking at the candle and thinking about Christmas.

"Granny B, each Christmas Candle has a different story, right?" Delbert asked.

"That's right, Delbert," Granny B replied. "The first candle is the Angel Candle."

"Why is it the Angel Candle?" Lello asked curiously.

"Haw! I know," Delbert interjected. "An angel came to visit Zechariah!"

"Right again, Delbert. The angel told Zechariah that he and his wife would have a baby," Granny B added.

Delbert appeared deep in thought, then suddenly his eyes opened wide. "John the Baptist was the baby, right?" he asked.

Granny B nodded her head proudly at Delbert. Lello turned to Granny B and asked who John the Baptist was. Granny B explained that he helped people get ready for the coming of Jesus.

Lello focused on the wreath and Christmas Candles for a while, then she began to count out loud: "One, two, three, four. There are only four weeks until Christmas! I need to decide what to make my mommy for Christmas."

Delbert jumped up. "Let's go make a list of ideas, Lello. I'd love to help you."

"Baa. That'd be great," Lello said. She turned to Granny B. "Thank you for telling us about the Christmas Candles."

"Why don't you two come back the same time next week? We can light the next candle and talk about its story," Granny B suggested.

Delbert and Lello both eagerly agreed to return; then they ran off to the barn to make a list of Christmas gift ideas. Granny B sat gazing at the Christmas Candles a while longer, then she returned to her Christmas decorating.