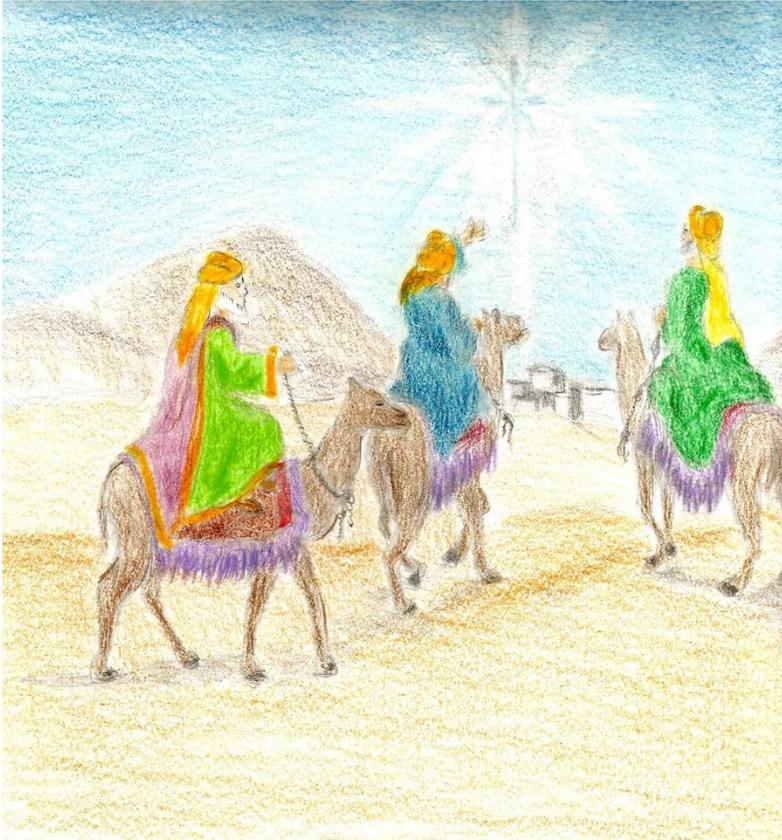


# The Guiding Light



**Ninety-four in the  
Heavenly Visits Series**

**A Christmas Story**

# The Guiding Light

by Jerry Mobley



Heavenly Visit Number Ninety-four  
A Christmas Story  
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## Visit Ninety-four

After Caden's family arrives at church, he hurries to the donut table at the back of the worship center to see if there are any donut holes left. Caden's mother said he could have a few donut holes since he had breakfast at home. He is able to snatch the last four donut holes right after Josif, a boy in his Sunday school class, had scooped up six or seven of the holes. Caden carefully places them on a napkin to take to class.

As he turns to leave, he almost runs into Ms Gray, his Sunday school teacher. Ms Gray is standing next to the table with a man and a ... a **girl**. Ms Gray says, "Caden, this is Haiden. She and her family are visitors with us today. After she selects her donuts, would you take her to our class? I need to show Mr. Harrison where his class is located."

"Yes, Ma'am, I will."

Mr. Harrison says, "Haiden, I'll pick you up after class. See you later, sweetheart."

After Ms Gray and Mr. Harrison leave, Caden asks, "Where do you live?"

Haiden replies, "I believe it's on Calhoun Street. It's not far from here."

Caden exclaims, "That's the street close to our house! I don't remember you at school. Do you go to Muster Elementary School?"

Haiden says, "I will after the Christmas holidays. We just moved here. Daddy is looking for work and he heard that he might find a job here."

Caden says, "I hope so. Say! Maybe you can come over to my house this afternoon."

Haiden replies, "I'll see. We're still unpacking, but maybe... Oh, I don't see any donut holes."

Caden says reluctantly, "Here... you can have mine."

"Thanks, but I'll just get one of these sprinkled ones." Caden thinks he likes this girl.

\*\*\*\*\*

On the way home from church, Caden is telling his parents how things were in his class. He says, "I knew my memory verse for this week and that's four weeks in a row. Ms Gray gave me a Tootsie Roll. Then Jordan and Will and Haiden and me were on a team and we answered all the questions and we each got a Smarty. Oh, I asked Haiden... she's a new girl... to come over this afternoon. Is that

okay? She might not be able to come... they are still unpacking and..."

Caden's mother interrupts, "Hold on a second, Caden. I spoke with Haiden's father after church services and he asked if she could come for a visit. I told him it would be fine and they will drop her by our house."

Caden says, "Thanks, Mom. You know... she didn't take my donut holes when I offered them this morning. She's okay."

His dad says, "She sounds like the right friend for you, Caden."

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Harrison arrived at the Wilson's house about three o'clock in the afternoon. Caden shows Haiden his favorite football and they play catch in the backyard for about an hour. Then they climb the rope ladder to Caden's tree house that his father had built. He says, "I spend a lot of time up here. Sometimes my friend, Jason, will come over and we'll hang out for a while. Also, it's a good place to hide and just watch the birds and squirrels and such. Sometimes I'll stay up here until it's dark. Dad will shine his flashlight up here to let me know it's time to come in for dinner."

Haiden says, "That sounds like what Ms Gray said this morning about the guiding star that the wise men

followed to find baby Jesus. God was shining his flashlight to lead them to the Savior."

Caden exclaims, "Say! That's right! I never thought of that."

"Caden! Haiden! It's time to get ready for church tonight." It was Caden's father.

"We're coming, Dad."

When they were ready, they started toward the front door. They passed by the Wilson's Christmas tree. Caden asks, "Do you have your tree up yet? It's almost Christmas, you know."

Haiden replies, "Not yet... We have a new tree, but we don't have any decorations. We lost them in a fire... last year. Dad says we don't have enough money for them, but we'll string some popcorn and make some other things to put on the tree."

Caden says, "That sounds like fun. Maybe you'll let me help."

Haiden replies, "Sure... Oh, I love that star you have on top. It looks like the star you see on Christmas cards. We had one like it before the fire."

"We've had ours for as long as I can remember."

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It is only one day before Christmas and they are working feverishly to finish the decorations in time. They are at Haiden's house and working on colored construction paper decorations. They cut out three and four-inch ovals and use glue and glitter so they will sparkle in the light.

Caden says, "These look really great! I think the popcorn strings make it better."

Haiden says, "You're right, Caden. It is very pretty."

Caden says, "And we did it ALL ourselves." After a pause, he continues, "Still... it would look better if it had an ornament for the top. It looks a little bare, don't you think?"

Haiden reflects a moment and then replies, "No... it looks great without it. We did good."

Caden says, "Let's go over to my house and get some ice cream. Mom bought it yesterday. She said we could have some."

At Caden's house, they finished the ice cream bars and Caden says, "Let me have your ice cream stick. I'm going to make another ornament."

"I thought we were finished. What are you making now?"

Caden replies, "You'll see. I need some silver paint. I have some in my room. I'll be right back."

He's back in a flash. Caden breaks one of the sticks in half and glues that piece to the longer stick to form a cross. He breaks the remaining part of the stick into equal parts and glues them crossways on the center. He then paints the ornament silver.

Haiden exclaims, "It's a star. It looks great, but how is it attached?"

"I've got this small paper water cup. You glue the star to it. Then you cut a hole in the bottom of the cup for the tree branch to go through. There... we're finished."

Haiden asks, "Where did you learn to make it?"

"Last Christmas. The church has a three-day Christmas event every year that we call 'Timeless Christmas' and we invite everybody around to come. It's a big deal and a lot of fun. Mother was in charge of the craft room where kids came to make a special craft each night. One night she had this one and I remembered how to do it."

Caden's mother comes through the kitchen. She says, "Kids, I need to go next door to see Mrs. Helton to borrow something. I'll be back shortly."

"Mom, we need to go to Haiden's house to finish up the tree decorations. We have so many ornaments here, can we give Haiden's family one of them?"

“Of course, Caden. Take whatever you like. Don’t stay too long because your father will be home soon and supper will be ready.”

“Okay, Mom. Thanks.”

After she had gone, Caden asks, “Okay, Haiden, which one do you want?”

Haiden looks at the large selection of ornaments and replies, “I think I like that red one over there.”

“I think your tree needs that star for the top. Don’t you?”

Haiden exclaims, “But that’s a very special ornament! We shouldn’t take that one.”

“Why not? Mom said to take whatever and I made this one to take its place. It’s okay, Haiden.”

“And how are you going to get it from way up there? Do you have a ladder?”

Caden replies, “I’ll show you. Here... hold our hand-made star.”

The Wilson’s tree was in the living room next to the stairway leading upstairs to the bedrooms. Caden goes up the stairs and climbs over the banister to stand on the outside edge. He leans out holding onto the banister to reach the star on top.

Haiden says, “Be careful Caden.”

Caden exclaims, “I got it! Come up with our star and I’ll place it on the tree.”

After they finish, they go to Haiden’s house. Haiden’s tree isn’t as tall as the Wilson’s and they are able to use a two-step ladder. Haiden places the shiny star on top. They take time to admire their work.

Caden says, “That’s a beautiful Christmas tree. The star really sets it off, but I think our craft decorations make it really special.”

“I think so too.” It is Caden’s mother. “I also think the craft star at our house is special too. I’m proud that you remembered how to do it from last year. You’ll have to show me sometime how you made the exchange. I assume you were very careful.”

Caden replies, “You bet, Mom. We were very careful. What are you doing here?”

“I’m here to invite the Harrisons to come eat supper and celebrate Christmas Eve with us.”

“We would love to come.” It was Mrs. Harrison. “I just got home from work. Mr. Harrison will be home soon. He has great news. He found employment today and we feel like celebrating. It’s been a long time since we’ve felt this good. We appreciate what you’ve done for us to make us feel welcome and to help during this time.”

Haiden asks, Mom, do you like our tree? Caden helped me work on it. Do you like the star on top? The Wilsons let us borrow it this year.”

“It’s very special. It’s identical to the one we lost in the fire. Thank you for allowing us to use it this year. I know it must mean a lot to your family.”

Mrs. Wilson replies, “Not anymore. We would be honored if you would let us give it to you for keeps. We have a new special ornament at our house. Right, Caden?”

“Right, Mom... This is a very special Christmas.”

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Genesis 3:24; Matthew 2:2

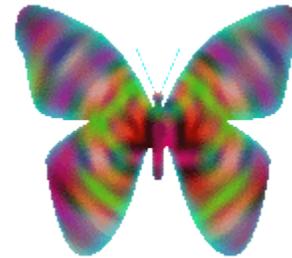


***Merry Christmas***

# **The Guiding Light**

## **Visit Ninety-four**

**We are to be the  
Guiding Light to  
the World.**



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