



Sarah and Danny Adventure

Bible Centerpiece by Heidi Cooper

"I love visiting Gramps and Gramma," Sarah squealed as she and Danny bounded up the front steps.

The old yellow farmhouse was full of interesting noises and smells. Sarah loved the gentle song of the windchime just outside the kitchen door. Danny loved the smell of gingersnaps just out of the oven. But they really enjoyed seeing their grandparents.

Inside the house, they felt so warm and cozy with the woodstove filling the house with heat. Gramps and Gramma had invited them over for a Friday night Shabbat dinner. Mom disappeared into the kitchen to help with food preparations, and Dad and Gramps went into the parlor to chat about the week's events.

"Well, what are we gonna do?" asked Danny. He didn't want to be left sitting on the massive wood staircase until dinner.

"Let's go ask Gramma what we can do! She always has good ideas."

So the two children snuck into the kitchen past the big dish cupboard and surprised Gramma. She gave a little squeal which made Danny laugh.

"What do you children want?"

"We're bored! Is there anything we can do until dinner?"

"Why yes, there is! I have a very important job for you," and Gramma reached up above the fridge to bring down a big green ceramic tray.

"I want you to make a centerpiece for the Shabbat table. But there is one rule you must follow. Everything that goes on the tray must be something from the Bible."

Sarah and Danny were only too eager to take on this job. They decided to split up to collect items and meet back at the stairs.



Danny ran out the back door to check the back yard. Sarah went up the stairs to check the guest bedroom.

"What can I find that is in the Bible?" Sarah wondered as she looked at the pretty items set along the dresser.

The pretty doily and brush and mirror were so pretty. She liked playing with the old doll propped on the pillow on the bed. But she couldn't think of any dolls in the Bible. Then she saw something tucked behind a music box, and she knew it would work!

Meanwhile, Danny was exploring the yard. But all he could find were sticks and pine cones. "Oh well, maybe Sarah found something better." So Danny ran in with his finds and perched on the stairs, hoping to smell dinner cooking.

He hadn't waited long before Sarah came down the stairs with a little bundle in her hands. She opened her hands to display a purple scarf and a pearl necklace. "What did you find, Danny?"

Danny sheepishly showed his sticks and pine cones. Sarah thought for a minute.

"I know!" she cried. They grabbed the tray and began arranging their items. Before they knew it, Mom was calling them to get washed up for dinner. So they carefully placed the tray on the center of the table and ran to wash their hands.

Gramma lit some candles as she admired the beautiful centerpiece. The sticks were supporting the purple scarf to make a little tent. The big pinecones were stood up to look like little trees. Certainly there were many trees and



tents in the Bible, but she couldn't figure out why there was a pearl necklace coiled up inside the tent.

Gramma asked Sarah and Danny, "I see you made a tent with this lovely purple scarf, like Lydia who made purple cloth. I see trees, like the trees in Psalm 1, but why is there a pearl necklace in the tent?"



"The pearls of great price, Gramma!"

"Ahh! Being part of YHVH's kingdom is a wonderful thing to think about as we enter Shabbat!"

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. (Mat 13:45-46)

