

Story Highlights

Lory misses her father who *left* her **two** years back. Lory wants to believe that this **Christmas** will be *different* and that he will return. True to her wish, her father returns but Lory is *not* ready to **receive** him because years of **neglect** had made her heart *cold*.

She needed to **warm** up to her father's love and her father tells them a **story**.

A beggar's life was very hard – he was poor and homeless and needed *money* to survive. He was fortunate to be **adopted** by a rich man who helped him understand the value of **family**. And then he reveals that he was the **beggar!** This statement brings Lory to tears and reveals the stark fact that everything is not as it *appears* – often the ice at the top is tiny compared to the huge iceberg beneath. And so it is often that life can be **hard**, but we must be *grateful* for the blessing of a **loving father** who *understands*.



Important Information

Format

ePub and PDF

DRM

None

Values

Trust in God

Simplicity of faith

Innocence

Patient endurance

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

1. Lory isn't at peace – an important ingredient in her life is missing. She has been praying but seeing no results. She is desperate and impatient. This Christmas must be different. As if somebody were watching over her, she is in disbelief to see before her very eyes, the answer to her prayers! It is impossible and yet it happens! Lory wants to realize the desire of her heart but some chords of affection were broken by abrupt separation and yet other chords were unstrung by neglect.

2. Her father was the go-to person she relied on. He was the strong rock on which she stood but like all rocks, this one had dissipated over time and now she stood on barren land, with dust all around. Her affections had grown cold but it wasn't anybody's fault. It was just the onslaught of time which she failed to understand.

3. The father had been helplessly blown around by the pressures of life. He needed a place to stand. He searched for answers everywhere. His disquieted heart pondered over life's questions. Without any peace, he set his troubled head on many an uncomfortable cushion only to realize that instead of finding meaning and purpose, he had let his heart be hardened beyond repair.

Problems Addressed

- Hoping for the impossible
- Feelings of powerlessness
- Managing emotions

My Best Christmas Present

*Is it morning already? It's time to wake up.
I can't go on like this - I feel like sulking... but
mama has told me not to cry. It's Christmas
today and papa's not here. It's been at least two
years since papa left and I am still dreaming...*



Resources Developed

- Willingness to learn
- Patience
- Taking things step-by-step
- Using reason and knowledge
- Looking for solutions

4. A kindly gentleman enters his life and his story touches his heart. Here he was running away from all that he loved and there was a man who had everything except his true heart's desire. One day, the gentleman's family returns and thus his parched life turns into a wellspring of life. The father now understands that the moments of one's life are precious. One cannot determine how each moment turns out and one certainly cannot know it all in advance. Live with great love and life will find its own answers. Meanwhile one must not let one's troubles affect a loved one's life.

5. With this recognition, he returns to his family. He is repentant and he is sorry for what he has done. He must win their trust but this is impossible unless he can tell them what happened since the time he left. The story is too unsettling for Lory and her heart melts and the chords of affection are strung back to life. She can now harmonize with her lost father's affections and she feels happy to return into her father's arms. Glorious victories are won in moments of pain. So don't desist from pain, it will heal in time and leave back some scars that you will be able to show-off.



Outcomes Offered

- The joy of succeeding
- Knowing that patience can lead to success
- Putting yourself in another's place
- The rewards of faith in God