

GRANDMA'S TEA CUP

Grandma's house! What a wonderful place! She was so excited she could hardly stand it! Today was the day she was going to Grandma's house for the summer. As the birds chirped just outside her window, she closed her eyes again and thought about her upcoming adventure.

Grandma lived in a little town called Maplewood. It really wasn't much of a town, not like where Stella lived with her family. Maplewood consisted of a few houses, a small general store and a little church with a white picket fence around it. Oh, and she almost forgot...one four-way stop sign right in the middle of town at the corner where the church and general store were located. A train came through the little town every day at 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm. Stella and Jesse, her friend who lived next door to Grandma, would ride their bikes over to the train track each day and wave at the engineer as he sped by. She promised Grandma that they wouldn't get too close to the tracks and always made sure they kept their promise.

Just as Stella was getting out of bed she heard someone yelling and a dog barking in the back yard. She ran over to the window and there, running around the tree, was her mother and a bed sheet that seemed to be floating around the yard!

"You come back here, Charlie!" Mom yelled. Charlie was Stella's dog and known to get into all kinds of trouble.

"Oh, no," cried Stella as she ran from her room and out to the back yard.

When she got outside she stopped in her tracks! She couldn't believe what she saw. Stella burst out in laughter! There, sitting on the ground was her mother and Charlie just looking at each other. Charlie's head was just barely visible from under the sheet and mother's hair was all down in her face. What a sight to see!

Stella ran over to Charlie and her mother.

"Mom, are you alright?" she asked between giggles.

Her mother parted her hair out of her eyes, looked at Stella and then at Charlie for what seemed an eternity. All of a sudden she burst out laughing.

"Stella, I'm not sure what we are going to do about Charlie, but he sure looks funny with that sheet over his head," she exclaimed. "I had one last sheet to fold before our trip to Grandma's house. I laid it in the basket and when I turned around it was just running across the yard," said mother.

"I guess Charlie just wants a clean sheet to lie on," giggled Stella.

“Well, if we are going to make it to Grandma’s house today young lady we better get going. Go get dressed and after we have breakfast we will leave,” said her mother.

Stella dashed off into the house to get ready so they could leave as soon as possible.

Stella thought Grandma’s house is just the most wonderful place in all the! The outside was white with black window shutters. The little porch on the front of the house had a swing in front of the big living room window. All around the house were Grandma’s prized flower beds. There she grew dozens and dozens of beautiful flowers each year. Some were red, some yellow, some blue and some purple. It looked like a rainbow with all the colors. People would always stop in front of the house just to look at Grandma’s flowers. Next to the house was a huge cherry tree. Each summer when the cherries were ready Stella would climb the tree to pick them for Grandma’s delicious homemade cherry pie. Of course, some of the cherries never quite made it into the bowl. They were just too good not eat as she picked them!

Stella helped her mother finish loading the car and after what seemed like an eternity trying to round up Charlie they were finally on their way. Grandma lived a couple of hours away and Stella couldn’t wait to get there! Once they arrived she jumped out of the car and there, sitting on the swing on the front porch, was her beloved Grandma.

Stella ran up the porch and hugged her Grandma tight.

“Oh, Grandma, I have missed you so much,” she cried.

“My goodness, you have grown so much. I almost didn’t recognize you,” said Grandma.

“You think so?” asked Stella.

“Why of course I do. You are almost as tall as me,” teased Grandma.

“Almost, but not quite,” giggled Stella.

“Grab your suitcase out of the car and we’ll all go in the house and get some lemonade,” said Grandma.

As they went inside Grandma said “I have a special surprise for you, my dear.”

“Oh, I love surprises!” exclaimed Stella.

As they entered the house, you could smell the freshly baked homemade chocolate chip cookies Grandma always had ready when Stella came to visit. It was heavenly! The inside of Grandma’s house was as glorious as the outside. Brightly colored walls and pictures all around. The sofa was like jumping on a big soft pillow. Stella even had a room of her own at Grandma’s house. It was painted pink and white, her favorite colors, and was decorated with everything a little girl would love.

But the most special room in the house was Grandma’s “Tea Cup” room as Stella called it. This is the room where Grandma kept her “special” things – handkerchiefs, old dresses, hats, gloves and scarves. Stella loved

playing dress up in this room with Grandma. But the thing she loved the most were Grandma's tea cups. She had tea cups of all shapes and sizes and collected them wherever she went. They were all over the room, on shelves, in cabinets. Every available space in the room had a tea cup. Her most prized tea cups were kept in a white cupboard with shiny gold handles. They had beautiful designs painted on them and some were decorated with colorful pictures. But her favorite was the ballerina tea cup. It was so dainty and beautiful! Grandma said she received it from a friend who was a ballerina. Every time she visited, Stella begged to hold the tea cup, but Grandma always said she was too young.

Stella just knew this was the year she was going to be able to hold the Ballerina tea cup! Grandma had promised her last year that this year she would old enough.

"I was cleaning the attic and found a trunk of some fancy old dresses and hats. I thought you might like to play dress up," said Grandma.

"Oh, that would be nice," said Stella.

"What's the matter, my dear? You don't seem very excited," said Grandma. "I thought you liked to play dress up."

Stella didn't want to hurt Grandma's feelings. Maybe she wasn't going to get to hold the ballerina tea cup after all.

"Oh, I do. I guess I am just tired from the trip," she said.

"Well, you will feel much better tomorrow after a good night's sleep," said Grandma.

She was so disappointed! Grandma had forgotten her promise! She had been looking forward to this trip all year and now that she was here, she was not going to get to hold the Ballerina!

After catching up on all she had been doing and telling grandma all about school it was time for bed.

"We have a lot to do tomorrow," said Grandma as she tucked her in bed and kissed her goodnight.

The next morning when Stella got up Grandma asked, "Would you like to walk with me to Mr. Thompson's store?" Mr. Thompson's General Store was just down at the end of the street. When Grandma walked to the store Stella usually went with her. But today she just didn't feel like it.

"No, thank you, I think I will just stay here," said Stella.

"Okay, I'll be right back," said Grandma as she walked out the front door.

Stella was still disappointed that Grandma had forgotten her promise about the tea cup.

"I'm a bigger now; I can hold tea cups and not break them," said Stella to herself. So she ran upstairs and took out the ballerina tea cup. It was just the most beautiful thing she had ever seen. The ballerina was dressed in the most beautiful pink tutu and ballet slippers and she had pink, purple and white flowers in her hair. Tiny pink and white flowers adorned the cup under her feet. Stella was day dreaming of becoming a ballerina just like the

lady on the tea cup when she heard a noise. As she twirled around to see what it was, the tea cup fell out of her hands and crashed to the floor!

“Oh, no!” cried Stella. She had broken the Ballerina tea cup! What was she going to do? How could she ever face her grandma? As she stood there looking down at the broken pieces, she heard Grandma downstairs.

“Stella, I’m home,” called Grandma.

Stella hurriedly picked up the broken pieces, put them in a small box she found lying on the floor and ran downstairs.

“I was just upstairs putting my suitcase away,” lied Stella. She knew she shouldn’t lie, but Grandma would be so angry with her. She just knew she wouldn’t love her anymore.

“Are you feeling ok, Stella,” asked Grandma? “You look a little pale.”

“I’m fine,” said Stella. Oh great, she thought, another lie!

“I think I will go find Jesse and ride our bikes for a while. Bye!” she yelled over her shoulder as she ran out the back door.

When she got to Jesse’s house she was crying uncontrollably.

“Hi Stella. What’s the matter with you?” asked Jesse.

“Oh, Jesse, I’ve done something awful and now my Grandma will never love me again!”

“It can’t be that bad, can it?” Jesse asked.

“I broke Grandma’s Ballerina tea cup!” she cried.

“Oh, that is bad,” said Jesse. “But I’m sure she will still love you. Don’t be so silly.”

“It gets worse. I lied to her about it. I was upstairs unpacking my suit case, which was lie #1. Then when she asked me if I was feeling ok I told her I was fine, which was lie #2 but I wasn’t ok because I just broke her tea cup! So now not only did I break her special tea cup I lied to her two times!

“Stella, your Grandma will not hate you, but you do need to tell her that you broke the tea cup and that you lied to her.”

“I know, I know. I better go back and get it over with,” she sighed.

When she got back to the house, Grandma was in the kitchen humming a song while she was doing the dishes.

“There you are, my sweet!” sang Grandma.

“Grandma, I....”

Before Stella could complete her sentence Grandma said “Come on dear let’s go upstairs and check out those fancy dresses and hats,” said Grandma.

“And while we are there, we can have a little tea party, just you, me and the Ballerina tea cup I baked some special little cookies for the party. I know I promised you could hold the Ballerina tea cup this year. You are so grown up!” said Grandma.

When they got to the Tea Cup room, Grandma headed straight for the white cabinet with little gold handles.

Grandma opened the cupboard. “My goodness,” she exclaimed. “I know it was here. I can’t seem to find the ballerina tea cup.”

“Oh, Grandma, I’m so sorry! Please don’t hate me. I thought you forgot your promise, so I got it out myself, but I heard a noise and I dropped the tea cup and it broke,” she sobbed as she went to get the broken pieces from the box she put them in. When she opened it up the box was empty!

“It’s gone!” cried Stella.

“What’s gone,” asked Grandma.

“Your Ballerina tea cup! After I broke it I put it in this little box and now it’s gone! Oh, Grandma, I’m so sorry, now even the pieces are gone!”

“Stella, come here,” said Grandma. “I could never hate you. I love you!”

“Even after what I’ve done?” sobbed Stella.

“Even after what you’ve done,” said Grandma. “But I hope you learned a lesson.”

“Oh, I have. I was disobedient and I lied to you. I should have listened to you when you told me not to touch the tea cups. You were right,” said Stella.

“Yes, you were disobedient and dishonest when you lied. But I know you are sorry and have learned a very valuable lesson.

“Can you ever forgive me?” asked Stella.

Stella, the Bible says to “forgive one another as God has forgiven you.” I forgive you for your disobedience and breaking my tea cup and even lying to me. And I’m sure if you ask God to forgive you He will forgive you as well.”

“Oh, Grandma I’m going to pray and ask God to forgive me and never lie again,” said Stella.

Grandma turned back to the cabinet and said, “Well, let’s see what we have in here.”

“Oh, look,” Grandma said as she turned back around.

There, in her hand was the Ballerina tea cup, all glued back together! You could barely see where it had broken.

Stella and Grandma had the best summer ever that year with wonderful tea parties and made memories to last a lifetime! But best thing of all Stella asked the Lord to forgive her and guess what? HE DID!

Author's Notes:

What Bible lessons could you use to teach a lesson from this story? (Adam & Eve, Abraham and Sarah, etc.)

What Bible principles/virtues could you bring out? (Lying, Dishonesty, Self-Control, Patience, Forgiveness, How God can pick up the broken pieces of our lives and put them back together?)

I hope you enjoy this revision. It has been a while since I have written anything so please feel free to leave any feedback.

Bonnie Lucas

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