

## Chapter 1

# My Disappointment



It was my birthday. Grandpa and Grannie came over, and we cooked out hamburgers and hot dogs. We had all my favorites: deviled eggs made by Grannie herself, macaroni and cheese from the blue box, and . . . watermelon!

Yum! We ate out on the deck with the green umbrella giving us shade and listened to Grandpa tell his silly stories about when he was my age. Soon it was time for my cake. Mom made me chocolate with chocolate icing and loads of sprinkles on top, too! Dad tried to light the candles, but the breeze kept blowing them out, so I listened to them sing the birthday song without the candles lit on the cake. Everybody said I was a clown when I took a deep breath and dramatically pretended to huff and puff each unlit candle.

Licking the last bit of chocolate from my fingers, I turned and looked at Mom. I knew my presents were next. I got a nice shirt (not a great snag, but not too bad), a DVD of a movie I had been wanting (score!), a really fun board game (pretty good). I was hoping for an envelope with money from Grandpa and Grannie, but instead they brought out a wrapped rectangle-shaped box. They were really excited. "Hmmm, it's got to be good," I thought, "with them grinning like that!" I

ripped into the paper and opened the box. It was a leather-bound Bible, with my name in gold down in the bottom right-hand corner. It was really beautiful, but I didn't know what to say.

"Open it up, Honey! Look inside the front!" Grannie requested. I looked up at her and Grandpa. They were so excited that they had tears in their eyes. I felt pressure to act really happy. I flipped it open and saw that Grandpa had written a note to me.

"Read it aloud," Dad added.

Carefully decoding Grandpa's old-fashioned cursive, I read,

*To our precious grandchild on the occasion of his tenth birthday –*

*Isaiah 40:8 tells us that the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. And Psalm 119:105 tells us that God's word is a lamp to*

our feet and a light for our path. Hebrews 4:12 explains to us that the word of God is living and active.

There are no words more important than the words found in these pages. We pray you will live by them, meditate on them, and thereby be changed by them, giving glory to God in all you do.

With more love than we can express,

Grandpa and Grannie

Everyone was crying except for me. I guessed that when I got older I'd appreciate everything it said. I knew they really loved me. I knew this was an expensive nice gift. I felt guilty, but I was super disappointed. I was hoping for money . . . or Legos. Knowing it was the right thing to do, I said enthusiastically,

“Thank you so much!” and gave Grannie and Grandpa each a big hug. Grannie kissed my cheek and said that they pray for me every day to grow into a man of God.

After that we cleaned up and went inside to play my new board game until it was time for Grannie and Grandpa to leave. There were kisses all around, and it was bedtime.

Taking all my gifts in my arms, I went to my room and got ready for bed. I climbed in between the crisp, cool sheets, thinking about my day. It was nice. I still felt a little disappointed about the Bible, and then that made me feel a little guilty. You’re supposed to love God’s Word. It’s just that, well, it’s not Legos. It’s not fun. It’s, well, it’s actually kind of boring, especially if you flip to the wrong part!

As I drifted off to sleep, I whispered to God, “Dear Lord, I know the Bible is Your Word and super important. But to tell the truth, I’m not really excited about a new Bible. Will You help me?” I yawned as I said, “Amen.”