



# LADI

## A Story of Nigeria

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### NOTE TO THE TEACHER

With this story teach the visualized Gospel song, *The Light of the World Is Jesus*, available from the publisher of this volume. Use the first ten illustrations in this volume when telling this story. Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.



### Show Illustration #1

Ladi waited beside the locust-bean tree at the edge of the village. She heard the shouts of excited children as they left their mud homes and raced toward her across the soft, sandy earth. She watched for a moment. Then, turning quickly, she began to climb the tree. Her bare feet clung to the bark and her black eyes searched for the highest branches.

“Wait for us!” a boy shouted.

“Try and catch me!” Ladi answered as she climbed higher. She stretched for a higher branch—but it was out of reach. She stretched and stretched—and suddenly her feet slipped.

“Help!” Ladi screamed, as she fell to the ground.



### Show Illustration #2

Ladi lay motionless. Her arm and shoulder hurt too much to move. When she breathed, it seemed as if everything hurt. Men ran from the village and knelt beside her. They touched her arm.

“Oh-h-h!!!” Ladi moaned.

“Her arm is broken,” one said. “We will have to take her to the missionary.”

Carefully, they bound Ladi’s arm with a thick rope. Then they carried her down the long road to the mission.

Ladi had never seen a white European before. But she forgot her fear after the lady had set the broken arm and bandaged it gently. *How different she is from our witch doctors*, she thought.



### Show Illustration #3

The next morning when the patients gathered for worship, Ladi joined them. One of the songs they sang was strange and beautiful. It kept repeating the words, “The Light of the World is Jesus.” Then one of the missionaries read from a black Book. What wonderful words they were! Ladi listened carefully. The missionary explained, “It was the Lord Jesus who said that whoever believes in Him should

not abide in darkness.”

They were strange words to Ladi. *Who is this Lord Jesus, anyway?* she wondered.

Each day she learned more about Him. Soon she understood that Jesus is God’s Son. He came from His heavenly home to bring light to boys, girls, men and women everywhere—people whose hearts are dark with sin. He died on a cross as punishment for the sins of everyone. Ladi could not understand why One so wonderful would die for her.



### Show Illustration #4

One day the missionary held up a lantern. “Our lives are like this lantern,” she explained. “Just as oil is needed to make the wick burn, so the Holy Spirit of God is needed to give light in our hearts.”

Ladi was more puzzled than ever. She knew how dark and sinful her heart was. *But how can I get a light inside?* she wondered.

The missionary continued. “When we believe in the Lord Jesus and invite Him into our hearts, He enters our lives and His glorious light chases away the darkness. Then His Spirit begins to shine through us. Sometimes the globe on this lantern gets black and the light cannot shine through. So too, if our lives are not clean, the Lord Jesus cannot shine forth. We must keep the globe of our hearts clean and bright.”

Ladi thought about all this for several days. Finally one afternoon she talked to the missionary. “There is no light in here,” she whispered, pointing to her heart.

“Would you like to have a light there, Ladi?” the missionary asked. “The Lord Jesus will come into your life if you ask Him.”

“Not today,” Ladi answered, shaking her head vigorously.



### Show Illustration #5

One dark evening Ladi walked with the missionary across the mission compound. Suddenly a strange fear filled her heart. She grabbed the missionary’s hand.

“Don’t be afraid,” the missionary said, holding the lantern in front of them. “This light will show us the path and protect us from the snakes.”