



Keep Up Your Courage

Paul and the Shipwreck
Acts 27:14-15, 18, 20, 23-25

Delbert and Pops laughed loudly as they cleaned the barn. Delbert gathered hay while Pops emptied the stalls. They were working very hard, but they were having a great time sharing stories. Then, they heard the barn door squeak open and a little black nose appeared.

It was Lello. She yawned as she entered the barn, looking as if she needed a nap.

"Haw! Lello, you sure do look tired," Delbert said. Lello had not been expecting to see anyone. She blushed.

Pops studied Lello and agreed with Delbert. "Lello, are you ok?"

Lello blushed even more and replied, "Baa. I didn't get much sleep last night. That terrible storm kept me awake."

Delbert nodded and said, "Haw! There sure was a lot of lightning and thunder."

"Were you scared, Lello?" Pops asked gently.

"Baa! My sister and I were so afraid that we hid under our blankets," Lello said with a shake. Even though she knew it was silly, she was still afraid of the thunder and lightning.

"I think there is a Bible story that may help you, Lello," Pops told her.

Lello's eyes grew wide. She asked Pops to tell her the story. He went over to his desk and picked up his Bible. He sat down on a hay bale and motioned for Lello and Delbert to join him.

"In the Bible, there is a story about Paul and a shipwreck," Pops began.

"Haw! You mean his boat crashed? Yikes! That sounds scary!" Delbert said.

"While Paul was sailing a terrible storm came. All the people on the ship were worried," Pops explained.

"I would be worried, too," Lello whispered.

Pops continued, "But, Paul stood before them and told them, 'Keep up your courage.' Paul knew God was watching over them."

"Haw! Keep up your courage! I like that," Delbert exclaimed, as he jumped up and began dancing around the barn.

Lello looked at Pops and smiled. "Thank you," she said. "I know God is watching over me, too. Next time a big storm comes, I'll tell my sister this story so she won't be scared."

"Why wait, Lello? You could tell her the story today," Pops suggested.

"Haw! Let's go tell her right now. Then, we can go find Freddy the Frog and tell him, too! He told me he wanted to hear more about the Bible," Delbert said.

"Baa! Yes, let's go. Bye, Pops," Lello called. She was feeling much better.

"Bye, you two. Remember, keep up your courage!" Pops called out. He waved as he watched Delbert and Lello run off in search of their friends.