



## **"An offering to the Lord."**

**Cain and Abel - Genesis 4:2b-6**

The morning sun was shining. Everywhere on the farm there were sounds of life, but no sound was louder than Delbert's singing. Delbert loved to sing. As Granny B and Pops walked out onto their porch, they had to smile.

"Sounds like Delbert is singing again," Pops laughed.

"Yes, shall we go find him?" Granny B asked.

Together they walked down the steps and followed the path until they found Delbert by the barn singing to the baby chickens. When Delbert saw Granny B and Pops, he quickly finished his song and rushed over.

"Haw! Good morning!" Delbert exclaimed.

"Good morning, little one. What are you doing this morning?" Granny B asked.

"I am singing songs to God. I love to sing!" Delbert replied.

"Yes, we know," said Pops.

Just then they saw Lello walking slowly up the path. Her head was hanging and she looked sad.

"Haw, I wonder what's wrong with Lello," said Delbert.

"Why don't we go see if we can help her," Granny B suggested.

Lello saw Delbert, Granny B, and Pops heading her way. She thought about hiding in the bushes, but she knew they had already seen her.

"Hello, Lello. What's wrong?" Delbert asked once they reached her.

"Well, I heard you singing and that got me thinking. You love to sing songs to God, but I'm too shy to do that," Lello began slowly.

"There's nothing wrong with being shy," Granny B offered.

"But, but ... how will God know I love Him if I'm not singing like Delbert?" Lello whispered.

Pops put his hand on the lamb's soft wool. "Lello, God knows you love Him. You don't need to sing to show Him; God knows our hearts."

"He does?" Lello asked.

"Yes, God does. You know, this reminds me of the story of Cain and Abel," Granny B said, as she flipped through her Bible. "Let's read their story:"

Abel took care of sheep and Cain worked the ground. Cain brought some of the things he had grown as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought the fattest parts from some of the lambs of his flock. The Lord was pleased with Abel's offering, but He was not pleased with Cain and his offering. So Cain was very angry. His face was sad. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you look sad?"

"So, God knew the hearts of Cain and Abel and that's why He was pleased with Abel's offering?" asked Lello.

"That's right, Lello. God knew Abel was giving his best offering to God," Granny B smiled.

"Haw! Lello! I know how you can give your best offering to God!" Delbert shouted excitedly.

"You do?" Lello asked perking up.

"What do you love to do that's quiet?" Delbert questioned.

"Baa ... I love to pray," Lello offered.

"Haw! Right. Your prayers are an offering to God, just like my singing is an offering to God," Delbert triumphantly declared.

A big smile crept across Lello's face. She knew her friend was right.

Pop's eyes lit up. "I have an idea. Why don't you two go down by the river and take turns giving your offerings to God? Delbert, you can sing and Lello, you can pray," Pops suggested.

"What a great way to spend your morning," Granny B agreed.

"Baa! Let's go. Thank you!" Lello called out, as she and Delbert ran down the path and to the river to give God their offerings.