



“The Lord watches over you.”

Hagar and Ishmael - Genesis 21:9-21

“Pops! What are those?” Delbert called, as he kept his eyes on the stream.

Pops walked over and took a look in the water. Then he smiled as he said, “Why those are baby frogs.”

“Frogs? They don’t look like frogs,” Delbert replied.

Pops laughed. “They don’t yet. Baby frogs are called tadpoles. They kind of look like fish. But, they’ll go through some big changes soon. Their legs will grow and they’ll be able to come out of the water,” Pops explained.

“Hey Lello, let’s act like frogs,” Delbert called to his friend who was lying under a shady tree. Lello jumped up and ran over to join Delbert who was pretending to be a frog.

“Ribbit! Ribbit!” the two friends called out.

Granny B headed over to the stream to see what all the noise was about. Soon she caught sight of Delbert and Lello jumping around and making frog noises.

“What are you up to, my little ones?” Granny B chuckled.

“We’re being frogs,” they replied.

Pops explained to Granny B how he was teaching Delbert and Lello about frogs. Lello wandered over and watched the tadpoles in the stream for a few minutes, then she asked, “Where are their mommies and daddies?”

"Frogs grow up without the help of moms and dads," Granny B explained.

"Baa! Oh, I'd be so scared to go through such a big change without a mommy or daddy," Lello whispered.

"Haw! Not me. I know God is always with me. He watches over me," Delbert said.

"You're right, Delbert. Lello, I have a story from the Bible for you. In this story, God promises to take care of Abraham's son, Ishmael. You see, Ishmael and his mother Hagar were sent out into the desert. God told Abraham not to worry about them. Let's look inside the Bible:"

But God said to him, "I will make the son of your servant into a nation also. I will do it because he is your child."

Early the next morning Abraham got some food and a bottle of water... He gave the food and water to Hagar. He placed them on her shoulders. Then he sent her away with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. When the water in the bottle was gone, she put the boy under a bush. Then she went off and sat down nearby to cry.. Her son, Ishmael, was crying too. Then the angel of God called out to Hagar from heaven. He said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid. God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up. Take him by the hand. I will make him into a great nation." Then God opened Hagar's eyes. She saw a well of water. So she went and filled the bottle with water. And she gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and learned to shoot with a bow.

"God kept His promise and He watched over Ishmael!" Delbert shouted with joy.

"God is good. He watches over us and He takes care of baby frogs," added Lello.

Pops and Granny B smiled. Pops suggested they all act like frogs again and soon "ribbits" echoed throughout the farm.