



"Do not be afraid."

Joshua and Caleb – Deuteronomy 1:19-40

Granny B watered the plants on the porch with the watering can. As she moved to the plants by the steps, she saw Delbert bouncing up the walkway. Granny B was curious what he was so excited about.

"Hello, Delbert!" Granny B called as she waved.

Delbert saw Granny B and shouted back, "Haw! Hello, Granny B!"

"What are you so excited about?" Granny B asked.

"We have to wait for Lello; she should be here soon. I told her to hurry," Delbert explained. Just then, Lello appeared around the corner scurrying up the path.

Granny B and Delbert waited anxiously as Lello made her way to the porch. Then, Lello and Granny B looked at Delbert, ready for the news.

"My dad says I can invite a friend to come camping with me and," Delbert paused for dramatic effect, "I want to invite you, Lello!"

Granny B clapped. Delbert jumped up and down. Lello smiled but didn't respond the way Delbert hoped she would.

"Wow, thanks Delbert. But, um ... I don't think I can go," Lello said sheepishly.

Delbert made a funny face. "What? Why not?" he asked.

"I don't have a tent," Lello answered quickly.

"That's okay, you can use ours," Delbert replied.

"But, I like to sleep with my special blanket every night," Lello added.

"You can bring it with you," said Delbert.

"Well, I, uh ..." Lello trailed off and looked away.

Granny B looked from Delbert to Lello. Delbert was confused. He thought Lello wanted to go camping with him, but Lello looked like she wanted to run and hide.

"Lello, I think I know what's the matter," Granny B said gently.

"You do?" Lello asked.

"Are you afraid?" Granny B asked quietly.

Lello nodded looking embarrassed.

Delbert got excited again. "Haw. Lello, you don't need to be afraid. I'll be there and my dad has been camping hundreds of times. He says he'll take good care of us," Delbert said, trying to comfort Lello.

"I know, but I'm still a little scared," said Lello.

"Lello, do you remember who is always with you?" Granny B asked.

"God," Lello answered.

"That's right. God is always with us and we can trust God with our fears," Granny B said.

"We can?" Lello asked.

"Haw! Sure. That's what Caleb and Joshua did when God sent them to spy on a new land. They saw big, tall strangers. The other spies were scared but Joshua and Caleb knew God was with them. They knew God would go with them into the new land," Delbert offered.

"That's great, Delbert. Lello, you can be like Joshua and Caleb when you go camping," Granny B said smiling.

"I can! I'll just remember God is with me! Oh thank you, Granny B. Delbert, thank you for inviting me. I'd love to go with you. I had hoped you'd ask," Lello said happily.

"Haw! You're my best friend! If you get scared, just let me know and I'll pray for you. Come on, let's go tell my dad you're coming!" Delbert exclaimed as he jumped up.

"Wait, before you go, I have a surprise for the two of you. I made some trail mix for you to eat on your trip," Granny B announced as she hurried into the house.

Granny B returned carrying three bags of trail mix. Delbert and Lello thanked her for the gift, then Delbert yelled goodbye to Granny B and ran down the steps. Lello quickly nuzzled Granny B and followed after Delbert, eager to talk to Delbert's dad about the trip.