



Search for the Lost

The Lost Sheep
Luke 15:4-7

Delbert and Lello ran toward the farmhouse. They were very excited because Granny B and Pops had a surprise waiting for them.

"Haw! I wonder what it could be!" Delbert exclaimed.

"I don't know, but I'm sure it's going to be wonderful," Lello said.

When they reached the farmhouse, they quickly ran up the steps and found Granny B sitting on the porch calmly, as if nothing exciting was happening.

"Hello, my little ones," she said sweetly.

Delbert was just about to ask what the surprise was when Pops walked out. Delbert and Lello turned to say hello when they noticed a man walking behind Pops.

"This must be Delbert and Lello," the man said in a calm, joyful voice. Right away, Delbert and Lello knew they were going to like this new friend.

"It sure is. Delbert and Lello, I'd like to introduce you to a good friend of mine. This is Ranger Ryan. He works in a forest far away. He'll be spending the summer with us here on the farm," Pops explained.

"Ranger Ryan loves to tell stories; something I know you two love," Granny B added.

"Oh, can you tell us one now?" Lello asked boldly.

"I'd love to. My favorite stories are stories that Jesus told," Ranger Ryan said.

"Haw! Those are the best stories of all," Delbert said sitting down on the porch.

"That's because His stories help us understand the kingdom of heaven. Now this one I'm going to tell you today is about a lost sheep. Would you like to hear a story about a sheep?" Ranger Ryan asked, as he sat down in a rocking chair next to Granny B.

Delbert and Lello nodded excitedly.

Ranger Ryan began, "This is a story Jesus told. He said, 'Suppose a shepherd has a hundred sheep and loses one of the them.'"

Lello gasped, "A lost sheep?"

"Then Jesus asked, 'Won't the lost shepherd go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it?'" Ranger Ryan paused as he watched Lello firmly shake her head yes. "Jesus said, 'When he finds it, he will joyfully put the sheep on his shoulders and go home. Then he will call his friends and neighbors. The shepherd will say, 'Be happy with me! I've found my lost sheep!'"

Lello jumped up happily, "Baa! What a good shepherd."

"That was a great story, Ranger Ryan," Delbert added.

Ranger Ryan smiled. "There's more! Jesus said the kingdom of God is just like that happy shepherd. There is a happy celebration in heaven when anyone turns away from wrongdoing and follows Jesus."

Granny B and Pops smiled. They were excited to have their friend Ranger Ryan with them for the summer and excited to hear his wonderful stories.

Delbert and Lello were full of questions for Ranger Ryan about the forest. Ranger Ryan suggested he bring a bit of the forest to the farm. Delbert and Lello looked confused. He explained that each night he would build a campfire and they could all meet there to hear more stories Jesus told.

Delbert and Lello loved that idea. They decided to go and find the perfect spot for the campfire. Ranger Ryan, Granny B, and Pops waved goodbye as the two friends ran off, excited about what the summer would bring.