



## Do Not Worry

Matthew 6:25-34

Granny B waited patiently on the farmhouse porch for Lello. In the distance, she saw the glow from Ranger Ryan's campfire. Granny B knew Lello looked forward to Ranger Ryan's nighttime stories, but where could Lello be?

"Baa, oh, baa," a sad little voice mumbled. Granny B looked around and saw Lello slowly walking toward her.

"Hello, my little one. What's wrong?" Granny B asked, as she walked down the steps to meet Lello.

Lello seemed too upset to talk, so they walked together in silence towards Ranger Ryan's campfire. Every now and then Lello would moan a little. Granny B patiently waited until Lello was ready to talk with her.

Soon, Lello began to explain.

"Oh, Granny B, Delbert invited me to a special picnic tomorrow and he asked me to bring the dessert. I know dessert is Delbert's favorite but I don't know what to bring. I'm so worried," Lello explained sadly.

"Don't worry, Lello," Granny B assured her, "Delbert will love any dessert you bring."

"Baa, maybe, but I'm still worried," Lello replied as the campfire came into view.

Ranger Ryan heard the end of Lello's sentence and stood up to welcome Granny B and Lello.

"Did I hear someone is worried?" Ranger Ryan asked. Granny B and Lello joined him by the campfire. Granny B explained Lello's problem to Ranger Ryan. He thought for a few moments then a smile grew across his face. "Lello, I have just

the story for you. Did you know Jesus taught us not to worry?" Ranger Ryan asked.

"Baa! He did?" Lello asked, amazed.

"Ranger Ryan, would you tell us that story?" Granny B said. "I think Lello needs to hear it."

"Of course, here we go! Jesus said, 'Don't worry about what to eat and drink. Don't worry about what to wear. Isn't there more to life than eating and drinking? Aren't there more important things than clothes?'" Ranger Ryan began.

Lello looked a little confused and asked, "But why don't we have to worry?"

Ranger Ryan answered, "Jesus said, 'The birds don't worry and God takes care of them. Aren't you worth much more to God?'"

"Baa! Oh me, oh my! You mean God even takes care of what I eat and drink?" Lello asked in awe.

"That's right, little Lello," Granny B replied with a warm smile. "God knows what we need."

"I think I understand. But, isn't there anything I can do?" Lello asked.

Ranger Ryan nodded. "There is, Lello. Jesus also said, 'Put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do. He will take care of what you need.'"

Lello smiled. Ranger Ryan and Granny B could tell she felt better. They asked what she was going to do about dessert. Lello decided she would ask her mom to help her make strawberry shortcake. Granny B told her that was a wonderful idea.

The three friends sat around the campfire for a little while longer, chatting together and enjoying the warm summer night.