



It was time

Advent 3—The Promised Son is Born
Luke 2:4-7

Pops walked into the barn and looked around. He heard voices, but he couldn't figure out where they were coming from. He checked by the hay ... nothing. He checked by the tractor ... nothing. Then, he checked by his workbench.

"Aha! There you two are!" Pops laughed, as he saw Delbert and Lello. Delbert and Lello were sitting on the floor playing with the manger scene they had been creating.

"Haw! Pops! Lello and I have been adding to our manger scene!" Delbert exclaimed, jumping up and knocking over some of the figures.

Lello smiled and stood them back up. She walked over to Pops and gave him a nuzzle. "Baa. We have had so much fun acting out the Christmas story. Do you think you can tell us more of the story?"

"Of course! That's why I came looking for you. I brought my Bible. Why don't we go sit on the warm hay," Pops suggested.

"Just like Mary and Joseph did!" Delbert shouted, as he jumped into the hay.

Pops and Lello laughed and followed him over. Once everyone sat down and cuddled up to Pops, he opened the Bible.

"Right before Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph had to travel," Pops began.

"Were they going on vacation?" Lello asked.

"Not quite. The king had ordered everyone to return to their hometown, so Mary and Joseph had to make the long journey to Bethlehem," Pops explained.

"Haw! Did they drive?" asked Delbert.

Pops shook his head no and said, "There were no cars back then. Mary and Joseph had to walk."

Lello shook her head sadly. "Oh, dear! I bet Mary was so tired."

"I'm sure she was. When they got to Bethlehem, they couldn't find a place to sleep," Pops added.

"Haw!" Delbert exclaimed, his mouth wide open. "What did they do?"

"Someone let them sleep in some kind of a stable," Pops said.

"Kind of like this place?" Lello asked, looking around lovingly at Pops' barn.

"Possibly. And, that is where baby Jesus was born," Pops continued. "The Bible says, 'They laid Him in a manger.' Remember, that's a food box for stable animals."

Delbert and Lello sat quietly for a few moments and looked around at the barn. They thought about the long walk Mary and Joseph took. They thought about not being able to find a place to sleep. They thought about someone offering their stable to Mary and Joseph. And, they thought about baby Jesus spending His first night in a manger.

Pops watched them carefully. After a while he said, "Would you like me to help you with your manger scene?"

"Haw! Yes! We need to make a Joseph!" Delbert said, jumping up and running back over to the workbench.

"Baa. Then we can make our manger characters travel all around looking for a place to sleep," Lello added excitedly.

"Oh! And when they find the manger you can say. 'It was time,'" Pops suggested.

With Pops' help, Delbert and Lello made a Joseph figure for their manger scene and acted out Mary and Joseph's long journey. When they arrived at the manger, both Delbert and Lello shouted, "It was time!" Pops clapped in approval.

"Let's go find Granny B. You can show her what you've made," Pops said. The three friends walked out of the barn and headed toward the farmhouse.