



The Lord watches over you

Jonah Part One: Jonah Disobeys God
Jonah: 1:1-17

Granny B sat on the farmhouse porch knitting. She slowly rocked back and forth as she wrapped the yarn around the needles. Suddenly, she heard feet pounding up the porch steps. Looking up, Granny B saw Delbert and Lello.

"Hello, my little ones," Granny B said as she lay her knitting down in her lap.

"Baa. Hi, Granny B. Guess what? Delbert has some great news to tell you. It's about God!" Lello blurted out excitedly.

Delbert looked a bit shy and said, "Haw, Lello, why don't you tell Granny B?"

Lello shook her head. "Delbert, it's your turn. You get to tell Granny B that God is faithful. I would never take your turn from you," Lello explained to her friend.

"Well . . . um . . ." Delbert stammered.

Granny B studied Delbert carefully and asked, "What's wrong, Delbert?"

Delbert looked hesitant to talk. Lello jumped right in saying, "Don't worry, Delbert. You can do it. Tell Granny B how God is faithful."

Again Delbert stammered, "Well . . . um . . ."

Granny B patted Delbert's head lovingly while asking, "Delbert, do you know what faithful means?"

Delbert shook his head sadly. Lello paused before offering a suggestion.

"Baa. I think it means God always keeps His promises," she said quietly.

Granny B nodded. "That's exactly right, Lello. The Bible says God keeps all His promises and He is loving to all He has made," she explained.

Delbert looked up. "Always?" he asked. "Does God still love us even when we disobey?"

"Yes, Delbert, and I know a Bible story that shows us that," Granny B offered.

"Haw! You do?" Delbert asked, perking up. Delbert loved when Granny B read Bible stories to them.

"Yes," Granny B said, opening her Bible. "It's about a man named Jonah."

"Baa. Oh, I remember. God told Jonah to go to the land of Nineveh to tell them about God, but Jonah didn't want to go tell them," Lello added.

"Haw! I know how he felt. So, what did Jonah do?" Delbert asked eagerly.

"Jonah went the other way. He disobeyed God," Granny B explained.

Delbert's mouth dropped open. "Haw! He disobeyed God? That's not good. Was God angry?"

"No, God is slow to get angry. God watched over Jonah, even though Jonah had disobeyed," Granny B continued.

Lello nodded and added, "And then when Jonah was in the stormy sea, God sent a big fish to swallow him. God kept Jonah safe inside the fish's belly."

"Haw! Wow! That must have been a very big fish with a very big belly!" Delbert exclaimed in awe.

Lello laughed. "Baa. I love this story," she said.

"What happened next?" Delbert asked.

"Well . . . baa . . . I forgot," Lello sighed. Then, she smiled. "Delbert, I know! Let's go back to the barn and read more about Jonah!" Lello suggested.

Granny B smiled and said, "That's a great idea, and once you two have read more about Jonah, come back and tell me all about him," Granny B encouraged them.

Delbert and Lello both promised to be back soon with more about Jonah and God's faithfulness. Granny B waved as they ran down the steps and off towards the barn, then she picked up her knitting needles and returned to her knitting.