



## I will speak

God Chooses Jeremiah  
Jeremiah 1:4-9

Delbert sat next to Granny B's rocker on the farmhouse porch. He was eating one of the chocolate chip cookies which was leftover from their picnic. Granny B rubbed behind his ears and said, "Delbert, I am very proud of you."

Delbert gulped down the last bite of his cookie and asked, "Why?"

"For the way you got up from our picnic and left right away when you remembered your mother had asked you to clean the barn," Granny B explained.

"Haw," brayed Delbert, "I sure I hated leaving these cookies behind, but I just wanted to get up and go obey like Jonah did."

Just then, Lello slowly clomped up the porch steps and flopped down at Granny B's feet.

"What's wrong, Lello?" Delbert asked.

"I didn't get to go to the far meadow with the sheep," Lello answered. "They said I'm not big enough."

"Cheer up, little one." Granny B reached down and gently lifted Lello's chin. "God must have chosen you to do something else for Him today."

"But, I'm too little to do something important for God," Lello sighed. "I don't even know what to say to the bigger sheep."

"You sound just like little Jeremiah!" Delbert jumped up excitedly. "Granny B, tell Lello what God said to Jeremiah!"

Granny B nodded as she pulled the Bible from her apron pocket. She explained, "God chose Jeremiah to tell the people about God—"

"But, Jeremiah was afraid because he was just a child and did not know what to say!" Delbert interrupted.

"That's just like me!" Lello spoke up. "What happened next?"

Granny B opened her Bible and began to read, "Let's see here, 'The Lord said to Jeremiah, "Do not say, 'I'm only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to. You must say everything I command you to say. Do not be afraid of the people I send you to. I am with you. I will save you," announces the Lord.'"

"If God helped Jeremiah, do you think He will help me, too?" Lello asked hopefully.

"I know He will!" Delbert answered. "God is faithful to keep His promises, remember? He will help you know what to say."

"That's right, Delbert! God keeps all His promises! He will give me the words, and I will speak!" Lello said boldly.

Delbert grinned, "Haw! I think God has already given you some of those words."

"He has?" Lello wondered.

Granny B nodded, "Delbert is right. You just said, 'God keeps His promises.' Those are great words about God."

"Wow! Maybe I *can* do this." Lello scrambled to her feet.

"And, when you're not sure what to say, God promises to be with you," Granny B reminded Lello. "He will give you the words to say."

"He will? How?" Lello asked.

Delbert offered, "You can say my favorite words from the Bible, 'God loves you!'"

"Yeah," Lello bleated, "I can say that! God—loves—you! Delbert, you can say it, too!"

Delbert replied, "I sure can! God—loves—you!"

"Now, we can both go and speak God's words just like Jeremiah did!" Lello shouted, as she hurried down the porch steps.

"Well, what are we waiting for?" Delbert jumped up. "Lello, let's go tell everyone God loves them."

Granny B smiled as she watched them skip down the path. After a sip of lemonade, she settled back in her chair, turned to the next page in her Bible, and began to read.