



We are safe

Daniel and the Lions' Den
Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27

Delbert and Lello had just finished a game of hide and seek and were resting by the stream. Delbert spotted Pops walking down the path from the farmhouse to the barn. He jumped up and ran after him. Lello hurried behind.

"Pops!" they shouted, running to him.

Pops smiled and waved. "Hello! Enjoying the stream today?"

"Baa. We were resting after playing a game," Lello explained. "Would you like to come and sit with us?"

"Sure, but just for a little while. I have some work to do in the barn," Pops said, walking back to the stream with Delbert and Lello. For a time, the three friends sat quietly.

Then Pops asked, "What Bible story did Granny B tell you the other day?"

"She told us about Shadrach, Meshach, and A-big-red-bow," Delbert answered.

Pops held back a laugh while Lello reminded Delbert, "Baa, that's Abednego."

"Today, I read a story about one of their friends," Pops said.

Lello and Delbert's eyes lit up. They loved when Pops told them Bible stories.

"Baa, what friend?" Lello asked curiously.

"His name was Daniel. Do you two know the story about Daniel and the lions' den?" Pops asked as he leaned back and propped himself up on his elbows.

"Haw! I do!" Delbert shouted.

"Me, too!" Lello added.

"A man named Daniel was put into a lions' den. What happened next?" Pops asked Delbert.

"Haw! He had to spend the whole night there!" Delbert answered.

"Baa, but he didn't get eaten," Lello added.

"That's right. Do you remember why the lions didn't eat Daniel?" Pops asked.

Delbert and Lello looked at each other. Lello closed her eyes while she thought. Delbert dug in the dirt with his hoof. After a time, Pops smiled and gave them a hint.

"Remember, the lions couldn't open their mouths," Pops began, hoping to prompt their answer.

"Because, they were tied up with a bow?" Delbert guessed.

Pops shook his head no. Delbert looked toward Lello, hopeful that she remembered.

Suddenly, Lello smiled. "Baa. God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions and keep Daniel safe," she said proudly.

"That's exactly right!" Pops said encouragingly.

Delbert jumped up saying, "I bet everyone was surprised in the morning when they found that Daniel was safe."

"Baa. I love that God keeps us safe," Lello whispered, cuddling against Pops.

"Yes," Pops said softly in his deep voice. "That's because God is Lord of all."

"Even the lions?" Delbert asked with his eyebrows raised.

"Yes, even lions," Pops answered getting up. "It's time for me to head over to the barn. Thanks for letting me sit with you."

"Haw! It was great to learn more about the story of Daniel and the lions! Hey Lello, let's pretend we are lions and an angel has shut our mouths," Delbert said, jumping up and showing off his best lion pose.

"Baa, that sounds fun," Lello said, standing up and closing her mouth tight.

Pops laughed and said goodbye as he walked to the barn. After saying their goodbyes, Delbert and Lello had fun running, making muffled roars, and laughing.