Moses and the Lamb

When Moses was a young man, he spent his days as a shepherd taking care of his father-in-lawÕs flocks in the land in Midian.

One summer afternoon while Moses was taking the herd through a sweet green pasture, he counted the sheep and found one missing.

ÒThis cannot be,Ó said Moses to himself. ÒMaybe I made a mistake when I counted the sheep.Ó So he counted the sheep again, but there was still one sheep missing. No matter how many times he counted, the total was always the same. One of the animals was really gone!

Moses looked up and saw the smallest lamb in the flock disappearing over a hill at the edge of the field.

Moses quickly decided to go after the little lamb. He threw down his staff and ran after the lamb, leaving his dog to watch the grazing herd.

For almost an hour, he chased the little lamb. He went through the tall, soft grass, through the thick woods, and across the slippery marshes. But the lamb was still nowhere in sight.

ÒWhy did the lamb run away?Ó Moses wondered. ÒDid something frighten it?Ó

Finally, Moses spotted the little lamb. It had stopped on the banks of the stream and was busily drinking the water. It drank like it hadnÕt had anything to drink in weeks.

ÒNow I see why you ran away,Ó said Moses. ÒFinish drinking all the water you want.Ó

Moses waited very patiently for the lamb to finish drinking. The sun had already begun to set by the time the little lamb finally finished drinking.

Moses quietly and gently picked up the little lamb and held it in his arms. He spoke softly and sang to the lamb so it wouldnÕt be scared. Then he took the lamb back to the pasture and gently placed it near its motherÕs side.

Just then, Moses heard GodÕs voice. ÒJust like the lamb was thirsty for water,Ó said the Lord, Òso my people Israel are thirsty for their freedom. And Moses, just as you brought the lamb back from the water with such kindness and understanding, so, too, will you lead my people into the Promised Land.