

THE LITTLE BLACK LAMB

I have always had a testimony of the Gospel. As far back as I can remember, I have known the Gospel was true. One day, when I had several small children of my own, four to be exact, I suddenly realized! I wasn't doing anything to help my children know how strongly I knew the truthfulness of the Gospel. I decided to give them opportunities to gain a testimony for themselves. I didn't realize I would be testing the Lord and He would give me one of the hardest tests of my faith that I would ever encounter.

My good husband, Gerald, was feeding sheep on our place for Will Havens. When Spring came, the lambing started. One day, Will came into the house with a little white lamb in his arms. He said, "Lettie, this is a little bum lamb and it isn't in very good shape. If you can save its life, you can have it. Maybe if you put it in a pan of warm water and rub it and work with it, you can save it."

After Will left, I said, "Kids, let's kneel down and ask Heavenly Father to help us save this lamb's life." I just knew we could do it. We knelt down and prayed, then got up and put the lamb in warm water. We rubbed it good, exercised its legs, and surely enough, the lamb lived.

Will brought two other little white lambs in. They had quite a bit of life in them, but needed help. Each time we prayed about it, worked hard and all three lambs lived and were just fine. The kids were thrilled, and they knew Heavenly Father had helped us! The beginning of faith - I was excited!

Then Will brought us a little black lamb. It was stiff and cold, not a sign of life. Will said, "I don't think you can save this lamb, but you can try if you want to." I decided not to try. Then my little children, whom I was trying to teach faith, said, "Mama, let's kneel down and pray." I was scared, every fiber in my body shook! What was I to do? The lamb was dead! It was stiff! It was cold! I knew if I didn't try, it would completely wipe out all I had tried to teach them.

We knelt down and I prayed. I shook until I could hardly say the words. I prayed as hard and as humbly as I ever had in my whole life! In my heart I cried, "Please, Heavenly Father, don't let my children lose their faith. Not now, when their testimonies are just starting. Please help us save this lamb."

We got up off our knees and I went to work. I put the lamb in really warm water, I rubbed it, I exercised it, and I prayed as hard as I ever had in my life.

The lamb lived! I have thanked my Heavenly Father all through the years that my children didn't have their faith shaken.

My children are faithful. They all have testimonies of the Gospel. I know that with the first four, a little black lamb that lived helped to establish the beginning of their faith.

I have never, nor will I ever test the Lord again. I have asked for many blessings and many of my prayers have been answered, but never has my faith been put to the test more than it was when my children and I prayed for a little black lamb.