

Story for All – August 2, 2020
Esther and Emmett and the Miracle of Sharing:

EMMETT: (in front of him are five Goldfish snacks)
Abbracadabra...nothing! How DID he do it????

Esther: Hi Emmett: This looks interesting!

Emmett: Hi Esther. Keep your eyes on these goldfish.

Esther: Just watch the fish.

Emmett: Right. How many do you see?

Esther: There are five of them.

Emmett: Five...right. Now keep your eye on them...One, two...three, four five...multiply them to 75!!!
(both stare at the five goldfish)

Esther: Is this when I tell you there are still five of them?

Emmett: I don't get it...there's a story in the Bible of Jesus taking five loaves of bread and just two fish, and he multiplied them and fed 5,000 people.

Esther: (looks thoughtfully at the goldfish) Hmmm, did Jesus say or do anything special.

Emmett: Well, as I recall, he did bless the loaves and fishes and then he broke them and then he gave them to his disciples to share with everyone...wait, that's it.. He broke them. Maybe I need to break these goldfish (raises his hand to crush goldfish).

Esther: WAIT!!! Is that a fly on the ceiling?

(Emmett looks away. As he does so, Esther adds another goldfish to the snack collection)

Emmett: I don't see anything!

Esther: I guess I was mistaken.

(Emmett looks back)

Emmett: Now, where was I...?
(notices the extra goldfish. Looks up, looks around). It worked!! Esther, look, it worked.

There were 5 goldfish and now there are 6! Yippee! It's a miracle!

Esther: And I saw it happen!

Emmett: You did???

Esther: Yes...would you like to see?

Emmett: Sure would!

Esther: Okay, just watch the goldfish...

(Emmett stares at the goldfish. Esther drops another goldfish onto the table. Emmett looks at the goldfish, then at Esther, then at the fish, then sighs).

Emmett: You added another goldfish when I wasn't looking?

Esther: Right.

Emmett: So it wasn't a miracle?

Esther: Maybe it was the miracle of sharing.

Emmett: Sharing isn't a miracle! A miracle is something no one can explain, something 'supernatural'.

Esther: That's how most people define a miracle. But for people of faith, maybe a miracle is something that comes from God – in which case, isn't everything something of a miracle – this earth, the stars and galaxies, a blade of grass...people caring about each other.

Emmett: Okay, but how do you explain how Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes.

Esther: I don't. I don't know how that happened. But I do know that in the story Jesus wasn't trying to multiply the fish so that he could have more of them for himself...

(Emmett looks at the goldfish).

Emmett: Ummm, I was going to share...say Esther, would you like a goldfish?

Esther: No thanks, but thanks for asking. I'm not sure it matters that we know how a few loaves and fishes ended up feeding 5,000 people; but I think it matters that it all began with Jesus asking the disciples to share the few loaves and fish that they had.

Emmett: I'd give Jesus all of my goldfish.

Esther: And then Jesus blessed them – thanked God for them – then he broke them, and then they shared them.

Emmett: And then there was a miracle.

Esther: The miracle of trusting that God loves us, and that God can make a little bit of our love and sharing go a long way.

Emmett: Because God loves a miracle!

Esther: Because all of us are one of God's miracles.

Emmett: So it's a miracle that once there were 5 goldfish and now there are 7...a miracle of sharing!

Esther: Thank you God for the miracles of life.

Emmett: Amen

Esther: Amen