

Esther and Emmett: A heavenly sewing project!

Esther: Hi Emmett.

Emmett: Hi Esther...you're just who I was looking for!

Esther: Really? How come?

Emmett: I was wondering if you could help me with a project.

Esther: What kind of project?

Emmett: It's a sewing project.

Esther: A sewing project? What do we have to sew?

Emmett: Heaven.

Esther: Pardon?

Emmett: Heaven, we have to sew heaven.

Esther: Why would we have to sew heaven?

Emmett: Because it's got a rip in it. A bird ripped it!

Esther: A bird!

Emmett: A dove to be precise... though it might have only looked like a dove...

Esther: Wait a minute, are you talking about...

Emmett: Yes...a Bible story!

Esther: The baptism of Jesus!

Emmett: Yes, he was baptized by a guy named John...and you'll never guess what that guy ate for lunch.

Esther: Locusts and wild honey?

Emmett: Yes ... the guy ate bugs! I think this is when we're supposed to say, "Kids, don't try this at home!"

Esther: Good advice...but about the story...

Emmett: The story says that the heavens were torn apart and the Spirit came down like a dove! The heavens were TORN APART!! Sounds like we might need a lot of thread to sew that back up.

Esther: I don't think we will need any thread at all.

Emmett: No...then...will we use duct tape to fix the rip in heaven?

Esther: No...you know, not all things that get ripped need to get put back together.

Emmett: I know that... maybe...so, what gets ripped and doesn't need to get put back together?

Esther: Have you ever been given a gift that was wrapped in wrapping paper?

Emmett: Sure have... wrapping paper and tape.

Esther: And how do you 'open' the gift?

Emmett: Well, I take off the wrapping paper.

Esther: I suppose you carefully fold back each piece of tape, and carefully remove the paper and fold it up so that it can be used for the next gift...?

Emmett: (staring at Esther) Ummm...not exactly...

Esther: What do you do?

Emmett: Well...I rip that paper off and crunch it into a ball and toss it aside so I can see the gift!!!

Esther: Exactly...you rip the paper...and do you try to sew it or tape it together again later?

Emmett: Nooooo...I look at the gift!!!

Esther: You don't have to repair the torn wrapping paper...so, maybe we don't have to repair the rip in heaven!

Emmett: Are you saying there's a gift wrapped up in this story?

Esther: Remember what Jesus saw after he heard heaven torn apart?

Emmett: He...saw...a dove!! Well, maybe a dove...the story says that it was the spirit of God that flew down like a dove.

Esther: In the story of Noah and the ark, it is a dove that brings the branch of an olive tree to Noah, letting him know that Noah and his family and all the animals could leave the ark.

Emmett: Noah got all that from a dove and an olive branch?

Esther: The dove brought a message from God...that the world was safe and waiting for them.

Emmett: So, are you saying that when heaven rips, and a dove flies down to Jesus, it's a message from God?

Esther: Well, God does then say that Jesus is God's beloved child, and that God is pleased. It's like a gift from God to Jesus, the gift of God's love.

Emmett: That's a pretty good gift!

Esther: Jesus goes on to tell us that God gives this gift to everyone – we are all children of God. God loves all of us.

Emmett: So, when we unwrap heaven, we find God's love!

Esther: Emmett, that's a beautiful way of talking about God's gift to us.

Emmett: Well, there's more to me than just cool hair, you know!

Esther: So, I don't think we have to sew up heaven, do you?

Emmett: Nope, we can just enjoy the gift of God's love.

Esther: The gift of God's love for all of us. Amen!

Emmett: Amen.