

Esther and Emmett talk about Jesus playing hide and seek...???

Esther: Hi Emmett.

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: What are you doing?

Emmett: I'm thinking about things I will do with my friends when we get through this COVID thing and we can all get together again.

Esther: I think about that too. I can't wait to be able to hug people again.

Emmett: I think I will play a game with my friends.

Esther: What game will you play first?

Emmett: I think we will play hide and seek, just like Jesus did with his friends.

Esther: Oh Emmett, I don't think Jesus played hide-and-peek.

Emmett: I don't know...he might have...I've been reading my Bible.

Esther: You've been reading about Jesus playing hide-and-peek??

Emmett: Well, I've been reading about a time when all of Jesus friends were searching for him – that kind of sounds like hide-and-peek.

Esther: And did they find him?

Emmett: Yeah...the Bible says they found him in a 'deserted place', which sounds like a good place to hide.

Esther: And what happened when they found him?

Emmett: That's when they told him that everyone was looking for him, which is kinda funny, because wouldn't Jesus know that if they were playing hide-and-peek?

Esther: Emmett, does the Bible actually say why Jesus went to a deserted place?

Emmett: Well, it says he went there early in the morning while it was still dark...sounds like he didn't want anyone to see where he was going.

Esther: And does it say what he did when he got there?

Emmett: Well, yeah...it says that when he got there he prayed.

Esther: So he went there to listen to God.

Emmett: Yeah, I guess so...

Emmett: And what happened when Jesus' friends found him?

Emmett: Jesus said they were all going to visit other towns and proclaim the message...because that, said Jesus, is 'what I have come out to do.'

Esther: The message...????

Emmett: Yep, that's what he said...the message...you know, the message...

Esther: You mean the message about God's kingdom arriving, the message about God's love for all the earth, the message about how we should live in God's world?

Emmett: Yeah, that would be the message.

Esther: So Jesus' friends went with him to tell people about God's love?

Emmett: I guess you can't do that in a place that's deserted!

Esther: And Jesus said that was what he came out to do?

Emmett: Yep.

Esther: So, maybe when we come out of this pandemic lockdown and can get together with everyone again, we should do what Jesus did, tell people about God's message of love.

Emmett: Does that mean I can't play hide-and-seek?

Esther: Actually that might be one way of sharing God's love – just being friends with others.

Emmett: Yeah, and you can show God's love by giving people a hug to let them know you're happy to see them.

Esther: And we can visit people, and we can volunteer in ways that help people know they are love by God – volunteer to help share food, and help people learn things, and to visit people...

Emmett: And we can go to Sunday school and Messy Church.

Esther: But right now we can share the message of God's love by the way we care for other people – by wearing masks when we are around other people, and phoning

people and texting people...

Emmett: By telling people that we love them we can remind them that God loves them!

Esther: By sharing the message of God's love. I'll say AMEN to that!

Emmett: AMEN