

## **Esther and Emmett: 'Bearing Fruit'**

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: Hi Emmett. What do you have there?

Emmett: I just went shopping and bought some fruit.

Esther: That whole bag is full of fruit?

Emmett: It sure is. I've got some apples, some oranges, some bananas, some strawberries, a pineapple...lots of fruit.

Esther: You must like fruit.

Emmett: I love fruit...but that's not why I have this bag of fruit.

Esther: Why do you have it?

Emmett: I have it so that I can carry it around with me.

Esther: And why would you want to carry a bag of fruit around with you?

Emmett: Because Jesus told me to!

Esther: Jesus told you to carry around a bag of fruit?

Emmett: Yep. Jesus said that his disciples should bear much fruit! So, if I want to follow Jesus, I should bear – carry – much fruit!

Esther: Oh Emmett!

Emmett: What?

Esther: When Jesus said that his disciples should bear much fruit, he didn't mean that we have to carry around a big bag of fruit.

Emmett: Whew! That's good! Do you have any idea how much a bag of fruit weighs? Who knew some apples and oranges could weigh so much!

Esther: Just before Jesus told his disciples to bear much fruit, he told them that he was like a vine.

Emmett: A vine! A vine! What's that go to do with fruit.

Esther: Well, a grape is a fruit, and grapes grow on vines.

Emmett: So, I don't need to carry around oranges and apples...just grapes?

Esther: Jesus wasn't talking about carrying fruit. When a vine 'bears' fruit it means that the vine produces fruit, that there are grapes growing on the vine.

Emmett: I like grapes...and grape juice!

Esther: The vines grow branches, and on the branches grow the grapes...which you can then eat as grapes or can drink as grape juice.

Emmett: So...vines bear fruit, and we are to bear fruit...so that means...I don't know what that means....are you sure I shouldn't just carry around a bag full of grapes, or grape juice?

Esther: I'm sure. Jesus said that he was the vine...

Emmett: Now Jesus is a vine?

Esther: And Jesus said that we are the branches...

Emmett: Wait...grapes grow on the branches... the branches bear the fruit...so, we bear the fruit...but...we're not talking about grapes, or apples or oranges....?

Esther: No. Jesus meant that when we are connected to the vine, when we are connected to Jesus...

Emmett: You mean, like Jesus' friends, the disciples?

Esther: Yes. When we are connected to Jesus, when we trust Jesus, when we learn about God loving the world through Jesus, then we will 'bear fruit', God's love will also be in us; and like the grapes we will give the world something that is good and useful.

Emmett: Like grapes and grape juice?

Esther: Or like caring about other people, like telling people that God loves them, like sharing our food with others who are hungry.

Emmett: So, I could still carry this bag of fruit, maybe to be shared at a Food Bank, or to give to someone who doesn't have a bag of fruit.

Esther: Yes, we bear fruit whenever we treat people like Jesus treated them – treating them like friends, treating them like they are special to God, loved by God...

Emmett: Because God does love everyone.

Esther: Because God's love flows through Jesus, and flows through us, and we will bear fruits of kindness and love.

Emmett: So we do carry something – we carry God's love with us wherever we go!

Esther: I'll say 'amen' to that! Emmett: AMEN