

## **Esther and Emmett and Germinated Love!**

Emmett: Amazing...just amazing!

Esther: Hi Emmett!

Emmett: Hi Esther. Do you want to see something amazing!

Esther: That sounds exciting. I sure do.

Emmett: Well then, look out that window (points).

Esther: I can see the backyard.

Emmett: Do you see that pot by the fence.

Esther: Yes. And I can see a plant starting to grow in that pot.

Emmett: Well, about three weeks ago all I saw when I looked at the pot was a bunch of soil. Nothing else...and then, all of a sudden, there was this green plant in the pot. One day there's nothing, and the next day there's something. It's Amazing!

Esther: Well, plants are like people, they grow, but we don't really see them growing. What we see is that they have changed.

Emmett: How do they do that?

Esther: Well, for a plant, we usually put a seed into the soil.

Emmett: I've done that! Most of those seeds sure are small.

Esther: Small, but filled with amazing things!

Emmett: There's something in the seed?

Esther: Yes. The seed is like a nice blanket wrapped around a little baby plant inside the seed. There is also some food for the baby plant inside the seed.

Emmett: I think a seed would have to be pretty big to hold enough food for me.

Esther: And then the seed begins to germinate.

Emmett: It has germs?

Esther: No. Germination is the name for what happens when the seed begins to grow.

Emmett: Oh good. I didn't want the baby plant to have any germs. So what happens when it begins to grow?

Esther: That's what is so amazing! The seed knows exactly when to start growing – when it is in the soil, and the temperature is right, and the amount of water and sunlight is right.

Emmett: Gee, I guess baby plants are pretty smart.

Esther: I guess they are. And then the seed opens up and roots start growing down into the ground and then the baby plant starts growing up, and a stem comes out of the ground into the sunlight and it just keeps growing.

Emmett: Wow! All that amazing stuff happens and we don't really see it happening, we just suddenly see a tiny plant.

Esther: Yes. It's kind of like God.

Emmett: (stares) Huh! How did we get from a seed to talking about God?

Esther: I was remembering something that Jesus said.

Emmett: About his backyard?

Esther: About the way we see God in the world. Jesus said that the way God works in the world is like the way seeds grow.

Emmett: You mean that germy thing that seeds do?

Esther: Germination – yes. Jesus said that a person plants some seeds, then night comes and the person sleeps, and then day comes and the person is awake, then the person sleeps again at night, and is awake again during the day, then sleeps again at night...

Emmett: (Yawn) I may need to sleep too if this story goes on much longer.

Esther: Jesus said that during all this time, the seed was...germinating.

Emmett: You mean it was growing...that's what that word means, you know.

Esther: Yes, it was growing, when the person was sleeping and when the person was awake. We don't see it happen. One day, we see a plant sprouting from the ground, and one day we will see some leaves, or a flower, or an ear of corn on the plant.

Emmett: All because of a baby plant, and the sun, and some water, and some soil...

Esther: Right. Jesus said that is the way God works in the world. Someone will do something loving, will try to make sure that everyone gets treated with compassion and

respect, or will try to change attitudes and opinions that are hurtful to other people.

Emmett: Those are the kind of things God would want us to do, because God loves everyone.

Esther: And when we do something loving like that, it is like we are planting a seed. We can't always see how our actions affect other people, but God might open someone's heart by what we have done, or God might make someone more loving because of what we have done...

Emmett: And then, something good....germinates...I like that word.

Esther: Right, growth happens as people become more caring, and laws and regulations become more fair and we treat everyone more justly and lovingly, and the world becomes a little better place.

Emmett: Wow! We can learn a lot about God just by looking in our backyard.

Esther: And we can plant seeds of love by the ways we treat other people.

Emmett: Then God's love can germinate in the world.

Esther: Amen

Emmett: Amen