

Esther and Emmett on 'Here I Am, God'!

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: Hi Emmett. How are you?

Emmett: (sighs) I'm good, but I sure will be glad when we can get back to playing outside with all our friends.

Esther: It sure will be. Then we can play soccer, and baseball, and go swimming.

Emmett: And we can give each other high fives...

Esther: Or even give someone a hug!

Emmett: And we can play tag, and hide and seek...although I'm not very good at hide and seek.

Esther: You're not? How come?

Emmett: I usually do what I'm told to do.

Esther: What does that have to do with playing hide-and-peek?

Emmett: Well, when I'm hiding, and the person looking for me is nearby, and that person yells out, "Come out come out wherever you are" ... then I do!

Esther: You do what?

Emmett: I come out from wherever I've been hiding and wave to the person and say "here I am!" It makes for a short game.

Esther: Hmmm...you know, that reminds me of a story about Jesus.

Emmett: Hey, it reminds me of a story about Jesus too. Which story are you thinking about?

Esther: I'm thinking about the time Jesus was walking along and a whole lot of people wanted to get a look at him, and they were all crowding around him so it was hard for him to even move.

Emmett: That's not the story I was thinking about. My story is the ...

Esther: Emmett! I haven't finished telling my story!

Emmett: Oh! I thought it your story was pretty short! Sorry for interrupting. Please tell

me the rest of the story.

Esther: In the crowd of people was a woman who had been suffering for 12 years with episodes of bleeding and no doctor was able to help her!

Emmett: Gee, that's not good.

Esther: The woman had heard about Jesus, and how Jesus had helped people who couldn't walk or couldn't see, so she thought that that if she could just touch Jesus' cloak, she would be healed.

Emmett: This is a good story!

Esther: So she worked her way through the people until she was near Jesus, and then she reached out and touched him, and...

Emmett: And...and...

Esther: And immediately she felt better and knew that now she was healed.

Emmett: Wow! I'm glad she made her way through the crowd.

Esther: But, even though Jesus hadn't seen the woman touch him, he felt something had happened, so he looked around and said, "Who touched me?" That's what made me think of this story. It's like he said, "Come out, come out wherever you are."

Emmett: If it had been me, I would have waved and said, "Here I am!"

Esther: That's what the woman did. She told Jesus what she had done and what had happened to her.

Emmett: And what did Jesus do?

Esther: Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well, go in peace and be healed of your disease."

Emmett: Why'd he call her 'daughter'?

Esther: I think because Jesus knew that we are all children of God – he was a son of God, and she was a daughter of God; and because she trusted that God cared about her, she trusted that when she touched Jesus, she would be touched by God's love.

Emmett: Great story! Do you want to know what story I'm thinking about?

Esther: Yes I would.

Emmett: I was thinking about how, after Jesus died, everyone thought he was in the tomb, but then he showed up in the garden, and in a room, and on the beach, and said, "Here I am!"

Esther: That's right! It's like God always says to us, "Come out, come out wherever you are" – come out and be called a child of God and trust that we are loved by God.

Emmett: When I get to play with my friends again, I think I'll tell them these stories about Jesus.

Esther: About Jesus, who always says to us, "I'm here. You are not alone." Amen.

Emmett: And Amen.