

Esther and Emmett: 'If God had a farm!'

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: Hi Emmett. What are you doing?

Emmett: I'm making up a song.

Esther: Really! That's neat!

Emmett: Would you like to hear it?

Esther: I sure would.

Emmett: I didn't write the music. I use the tune from the song, "Old MacDonald had a farm. Do you know that song?"

Esther: Of course:

 "Old MacDonald had a farm,
 E-I-E-I-O!

Emmett: That's the song! Well, I was thinking, "What if God had a farm?"

Esther: So you wrote a song about God having a farm?

Emmett: Yep. Here's part of it:

 Our Holy God had a farm
 Amen-Amen- O!

I like that part – I used Amen Amen O rather than E-I-E-I-O.

Esther: I noticed that!

Emmett: Clever eh? Okay, here I go:

 Our Holy God had a farm
 Amen-Amen-O!
 And on this farm there was
 A wolf and a lamb
 Oh-my-oh-my-oh!

I put that line in there to build some suspense.

Esther: You've certainly got my attention.

Emmett: Good. Here's the next part after

 Oh-my-oh-my-oh!
 But the wolf and the lamb
 They were good friends
 Amen-amen-O!

Esther: Emmett, did you write this song after reading something in the Bible?

Emmett: I certainly did. I was reading a part of the Bible called Is-ai-ah! I thought I might use that in the song: Is-ai-is-ai-ah! Pretty catchy, eh?

Esther: That's very good...but that's not how you pronounce that word.

Emmett: Really? That's how you spell it!

Esther: The word is pronounced Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet. He lived about 700 years before Jesus was born.

Emmett: Wow! There's some pretty old stuff in the Bible.

Esther: That's because people have been listening to God for a long time.

Emmett: So, did Isaiah have a farm? He seemed to talk about a lot of animals.

Esther: No, Isaiah didn't have a farm. Isaiah told people about God and that God wanted people to live together in peace and be good neighbours to one another.

Emmett: Yeh, I think God would like that. I think that's what Jesus wanted, too!

Esther: That's why Isaiah talks about all of those animals. Some of them are what we might think of as 'farm' animals – like a lamb, and a calf, and an ox....but some are not animals that live on farms.

Emmett: Yeah, I thought God had a pretty weird farm, because there are lions and wolves and bears...oh my! I even spotted a leopard in the list!

Esther: Right. Isaiah says that the wolf and the lamb will sleep in the same field and the calf and the lion will be friends, and the cow and the bear will eat together.

Emmett: I'm not sure that wolves and lambs usually hang out together.

Esther: That's the point! Isaiah is talking about how God wants the world to work. Usually, a lamb would be afraid of a wolf.

Emmett: Smart lamb!

Esther: But Isaiah isn't really talking about animals.

Emmett: What! Isaiah isn't talking about animals! Wait, don't tell me he's doing that Jesus thing – talking about one thing when he's really talking about another thing! Did you have to take a course on how to talk that way in order to be in the Bible?

Esther: Isaiah was a poet who had a creative imagination. Isaiah also knew that there were people who were afraid of other people, and there were nations at war with each other, and that there were people who got wealthy by gobbling up the farms and the money of other people.

Emmett: You mean like a hungry wolf might gobble up a lamb?

Esther: Yes. Isaiah said that if people lived the way God wants us to live, we wouldn't try to hurt anyone else. We would live together in peace. We would be good neighbours to each other.

Emmett: Hey, Isaiah did talk like Jesus. Jesus said we should love our neighbours and no one should be hungry.

Esther: God wants people to love one another, and to learn how to share, and how to care for one another, and for nations to live in peace.

Emmett: Hey, I just thought of a new verse for my song:

Our holy God had a world
Amen-Amen-O
And on this world we lived in peace
Amen-Amen...

Esther: AMEN!

Emmett: AMEN!