

Esther and Emmett:

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: Hi Emmett.

Emmett: Say Esther, you know lots about Jesus, don't you?

Esther: Well, I read the Bible and I listen to stories about Jesus told at Messy Church and I listen to what the ministers say about Jesus during our online worship services!

Emmett: That's good enough for me. I've got a question.

Esther: I'll do my best to give you an answer. What's your question?

Emmett: My question is, 'What kind of communication device did Jesus use? Did he have a laptop, or a tablet or I-pad or smart phone?

Esther: Oh Emmett! They didn't have any electronic devices in the time of Jesus.

Emmett: I think they did.

Esther: I don't think so!

Emmett: Then what did he use for scrolling?

Esther: Pardon?

Emmett: When he had to scroll...you know, like you might scroll through your texts or emails. How did Jesus scroll?

Esther: Jesus didn't scroll.

Emmett: I think he did.

Esther: I don't think so.

Emmett: Well, it's in the Bible!

Esther: The Bible says that Jesus scrolled?

Emmett: Yeah, I think so. There's a story about Jesus being in the synagogue and reading the Bible by scrolling!

Esther: Oh, I think I know the story.

Emmett: I hope so! I don't just make this stuff up, you know!

Esther: It's the story of Jesus going to the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth and being asked to read the scripture.

Emmett: Right, so he took out an electronic device and started to scroll through the reading.

Esther: What actually happened is that they handed Jesus a scroll.

Emmett: Oh! They gave Jesus something to use when he was scrolling!

Esther: No. they gave him a scroll.

Emmett: A what?

Esther: A scroll?

Emmett: Was that an early kind of laptop?

Esther: No. It was more like an early kind of book.

Emmett: I don't get it!

Esther: A scroll was like a page that people could write on. A scroll might have been made using layers of a plant called papyrus, or it might have been parchment made from the skin of sheep.

Emmett: So a scroll was sort of like a piece of paper that people used to write on?

Esther: They wrote on them, and then they rolled them up.

Emmett: They rolled them up! You mean, like a sleeping bag?

Esther: Sort of like that.

Emmett: And you said that in this story in the Bible, they gave Jesus a scroll?

Esther: Yes. When it came time for a reading during worship, they would have handed Jesus a scroll, and he would have unrolled the scroll, and then he would have read what was written on the scroll.

Emmett: Seems like a lot of work just to read something.

Esther: It's not that different from today. Today we 'open' a book. Then they 'unrolled' a scroll.

Emmett: Okay...so they give Jesus this scroll, and he unrolls the scroll, and then he reads. What was written on the scroll that Jesus read?

Esther: It was words from the prophet Isaiah.

Emmett: Isaiah...hey, isn't Isaiah mentioned in the Bible?

Esther: Yes. Isaiah lived several hundred years before Jesus was born. Isaiah lived during a time when the Jewish people had been conquered by the nation of Persia, and some of the Jewish people had been taken away from Jerusalem and made to live in Babylon.

Emmett: They must have been sad to be taken away from their homes!

Esther: Yes, they were. Isaiah told the people that God cared about them and that one day God would bring them back to Jerusalem and to their homes.

Emmett: They must have been glad to hear that!

Esther: They were. And the prophet told them that they were to be people of God who cared for each other. So the prophet said that what they were being told was good news.

Emmett: We could all use some good news!

Esther: Isaiah said that it was good news for the poor; that people who felt trapped would be able to live with a sense of freedom and safety. Isaiah said that the blind would see and people would be safe and they should make sure that everyone had enough food to eat.

Emmett: Now I get it!

Esther: Now you get what?

Emmett: Now I get why Jesus was scrolling through that scroll!

Esther: Jesus was reading the scroll!

Emmett: And I think I know why – because what Isaiah said was what Jesus said that God was still saying!

Esther: I think you just said a lot!

Emmett: Well, Jesus cared about everyone. Jesus said that God cared about everyone. And Jesus helped people to see, and to walk, and Jesus made sure that people had

food to eat, and that everyone felt like they were loved by God.

Esther: Yes, Jesus did all of that!

Emmett: And it is good news that Jesus did all that, the good news that God loved everyone and that God still loves everyone.

Esther: And that God wants each of us to love others and make sure that everyone has enough food and feels loved.

Emmett: You know what I think I'm going to do right now, Esther?

Esther: What are you going to do, Emmett?

Emmett: I'm going to look up Isaiah on the Internet and scroll through what Isaiah said.

Esther: And what will you do after you have done that?

Emmett: I'll probably say, "Amen."

Esther: Amen!