

Esther and Emmett – February 27 2022

Esther: Hi Emmett. Have you seen how much snow there is outside?

Emmett: Hi Esther. Yes, there sure is a lot of snow. It looks like a mountain of snow in our front yard.

Esther: It sure does...but there are lots of things you can do on a mountain...like skiing.

Emmett: Or tobogganing!

Esther: Or praying!

Emmett: Or...did you say 'praying'?

Esther: Yes, Jesus sometimes went up on a mountain to pray.

Emmett: Jesus went up on a mountain to pray?!!!

Esther: Yes...in fact, this Sunday we will be hearing a Bible story about Jesus going up on a mountain to pray.

Emmett: We will?

Esther: Yes we will, because this Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday.

Emmett: Really! I have a Transformer that can change from a robot into a car!

Esther: That sounds like fun, but this isn't Transformer Sunday. It's Transfiguration Sunday.

Emmett: Sounds like a Sunday when everyone tries to figure out what the name of the Sunday means!!

Esther: Transfiguration is a big word!

Emmett: Is that what happens when people go up a mountain to pray? Do they start saying big words?

Esther: No, Jesus didn't actually say the word 'transfiguration.' The church calls this Transfiguration Sunday because of what happened while Jesus was praying on the mountain.

Emmett: I don't suppose this story involves a robot becoming a car?

Esther: No, but the story is about Jesus being transformed.

Emmett: Jesus became a car!

Esther: Oh Emmett! How about I just tell you the story?

Emmett: I'd love to hear the story about Jesus on the mountain.

Esther: Okay. As I said, Jesus went up a mountain to pray, but he didn't go up the mountain alone. Some of his friends – Peter, John and James – went with him.

Emmett: That's nice. Then they could all pray while they were on the mountain.

Esther: While Jesus was praying, he was changed!

Emmett: Jesus was changed! Are you sure he didn't become a car?

Esther: No. His clothes became a very bright white, like a very bright light.

Emmett: I hope his friends brought their sunglasses!

Esther: And then, two other people appeared on the mountain!

Emmett: Mountain climbers?

Esther: No, two people who had lived long ago and were known as prophets, as people who spoke about God and the world. They were Moses and Elijah.

Emmett: I've heard of them. There are stories about them in the Bible!

Esther: And they were also shining!

Emmett: How come everyone was shining?

Esther: When the Bible says that people were glowing, or shining like a bright light, it means that God is also there.

Emmett: Wow! This is a good story.

Esther: Jesus and Moses and Elijah talked about Jesus' life, and what would happen when he went to Jerusalem.

Emmett: Hey, what about Jesus' other friends – Peter and James and John? What were they doing?

Esther: The story says they all felt very tired....

Emmett: Don't tell me they fell asleep! How could anyone sleep when there were so many brightly glowing people around!

Esther: No, they didn't fall asleep. They listened and they saw Jesus and Moses and Elijah shining – showing God's glory. It was like God was shining a very bright light on them. And they saw Moses and Elijah getting ready to leave Jesus.

Emmett: And is that the end of the story?

Esther: No. Peter didn't want Moses and Elijah to leave, so he said that they should make three huts, three places for Jesus and Moses and Elijah to stay in.

Emmett: Why would they want to stay on top of a mountain? I mean, I'm sure there was a great view, but what would you do when you weren't praying?

Esther: I don't think Peter had really thought about what he was saying, but before he could say anything else, guess what happened?

Emmett: Did Peter fall asleep?

Esther: No. A thick cloud appeared and covered the mountain, and Elijah and Moses disappeared into the cloud!

Emmett: A cloud! How did that happen?

Esther: In the Bible, a cloud means that God is there.

Emmett: I thought the bright light meant that God was there!

Esther: Well, sometimes it's a bright light, and sometimes it's a cloud...or sometimes it's a dove.

Emmett: Wow! God is full of surprises. What happened after the cloud appeared?

Esther: They heard a voice speaking from out of the cloud.

Emmett: Let me guess...a voice from a cloud means God is there?

Esther: Yes. The voice told them something about Jesus. The voice said, "This is my child, my Chosen, listen to him!"

Emmett: Then what happened?

Esther: Nothing. The cloud left and Jesus and Peter and James and John were alone on the mountain, so they went back down the mountain to the rest of their friends.

Emmett: What a neat story. So why do we call this Sundaynot transformer Sunday but that other word....?

Esther: Transfiguration Sunday!

Emmett: That's what we call it!

Esther: To be transfigured means that your appearance changes in a way that shows that God is with you and that the Spirit of God is in you.

Emmett: that sounds even better than changing into a car!

Esther: Much better! The story tells us that God was with Jesus, just like God had been with Moses and Elijah. Jesus tells about God and shows us how God wants us to live.

Emmett: So, we should love people like Jesus loved people. And maybe sometimes we should climb a mountain and pray.

Esther: Well, we could. But we don't have to go up a mountain to pray. We can pray wherever we are, because God is with us everywhere.

Emmett: We can pray everywhere, and then we can say 'Amen'.

Esther: Amen!