

Esther and Emmett – Feb 6

Esther: Hi Emmett.

Emmett: Hi Esther. There sure is a lot of snow outside, isn't there?

Esther: There sure is a lot of snow. There's also lots of things that people can do when there is lots of snow.

Emmett: Yeah.....they can shovel!

Esther: They can also go skiing and snowshoeing and tobogganing.

Emmett: Yep, there's lots of fun things to do in the winter; but I also look forward to the summer when there are other fun things to do.

Esther: Like playing soccer or baseball, or going swimming, or riding our bikes.

Emmett: And some people go fishing.

Esther: Yes, some people go fishing. Although some people also go fishing during the winter.

Emmett: People go fishing in the winter!

Esther: Yes, people go ice fishing.

Emmett: Why would anyone want to fish for ice?

Esther: They don't fish for ice. They cut a hole through the ice on a lake and then fish...for fish.

Emmett: That makes more sense.

Esther: Have you ever been fishing?

Emmett: No, but if I went fishing, I would want to go fishing with Jesus, because he seems to know where to catch fish.

Esther: It sounds like you have been reading some Bible stories again.

Emmett: Yes. I just read about Jesus walking by a lake and lots of people wanted to hear Jesus talk about God, so Jesus looked out on the lake and saw two boats sitting by the shore. The people who owned the boats were washing their nets. I guess that

means they used nets when they were fishing.

Esther: Yes, they used large nets. Rather than using a fishing pole and casting a line into the water, they would lower large nets into the water. Fish would swim into the net and then the people in the boat could lift the net containing the fish out of the water.

Emmett: No wonder they had to wash their nets. I bet the nets smelled like fish!

Esther: Well, yes, and the nets may also have dragged up some stones or reeds, so they would have to clean all of that out of the nets.

Emmett: You learn something every day! Jesus didn't want to clean the nets, though, he wanted to borrow a boat so that he could sit in the boat just off the shore and talk to the people from there.

Esther: As I remember the story, the boat belonged to Simon.

Emmett: And was Simon in for a surprise, because after Jesus finished talking, he said they should try fishing again.

Esther: And what did Simon say?

Emmett: I think Simon must have been tired, because he said they had already spent all night fishing, and hadn't caught anything...I guess the fish weren't biting...or the fish weren't netting! What would you say when you don't catch any fish in your net?

Esther: I don't know. Did Simon go fishing again?

Emmett: Yes. Jesus told him to put the net down into the deep water, andguess what happened?

Esther: Simon caught a lot of fish!

Emmett: They caught a lot of fish...wait, you knew that!

Esther: Things like that happen in the stories about Jesus.

Emmett: They caught so many fish that Simon had to call on friends in another boat to come and help pull in the net, because it was so heavy because of all the fish in it.

Esther: And then what happened?

Emmett: Simon told Jesus to go away, but Jesus told Simon and some of Simon's friends that he wanted them to stop catching fish and start catching people. And then they all left their boats and went with Jesus.

Esther: And because of that story you think you'd like to go fishing with Jesus?

Emmett: Of course! Jesus knew how to catch lots of fish.

Esther: Yes, I guess Jesus did...unless...unless...

Emmett: Unless what?

Esther: Unless the story isn't about catching fish!

Emmett: Not about catching fish! Not about catching fish! Oh course. It's a story about Jesus, so of course it's not about what it seems to be about! So, what is it about?

Esther: There's a lot of fish in the story, so I think the story could be about a lot of things!

Emmett: Okay...would you please tell me what it could be about?

Esther: Well, Simon and the others who started to follow Jesus became his disciples.

Emmett: Right. They went with him from village to village, right?

Esther: That's right. So, maybe this story says something about being a disciple of Jesus.

Emmett: Something like....like....don't worry about cleaning nets?

Esther: Well, maybe it says that when you are with Jesus you will be surprised by what happens.

Emmett: You mean that you might catch more fish than you thought?

Esther: Or, if there are a few hundred people in the wilderness and you have only a few fish and loaves of bread with which to feed them...then...maybe...you will be able to feed a lot more people than you expected to be able to feed.

Emmett: Hey, that's a story in the Bible, too. The disciples didn't think they had enough food for all the hungry people who came to listen to Jesus.

Esther: But they were surprised when there was enough food to feed everyone!

Emmett: So, maybe the story reminds us that Jesus is full of surprises!

Esther: Jesus tells Simon to come with him and catch people! Simon was surprised by how many fish they caught. Maybe people would catch a sense of hope from Jesus. Maybe the story is about how much love there is to share when we trust Jesus.

Emmett: Hmm...so maybe I don't have to fishing with Jesus. Maybe I should love people and share with people and...and...expect Jesus to surprise us!

Esther: And keep reading and listening to the stories about Jesus...and when you finish reading you can say, 'Amen.'

Emmett: Amen!