

## **Esther and Emmett talk about prayers and blankets:**

Emmett: Hi Esther!

Esther: Hi Emmett! I'm glad that the weather is a little warmer these days.

Emmett: I'm glad too. It sure has been chilly this winter. That's why I'm also glad to have my favourite blanket.

Esther: You have a favourite blanket! I do too!

Emmett: That's neat! My blanket is blue and green and...orange....like the colour of my hair.

Esther: My blanket is red and yellow and green and blue.

Emmett: Just like a rainbow! Wow!

Esther: I like to pull my blanket around me when I am watching TV, or sometimes when I'm sitting on the couch reading a book.

Emmett: I do that too! Every time I wrap myself in my blanket I feel warm and safe. It feels like someone is giving me a big friendly hug.

Esther: Hmmm, that reminds me of something Jesus said...

Emmett: About a blanket?

Esther: About being hugged; about feeling God's love wrap around us.

Emmett: Did Jesus say that God has a blanket?

Esther: Sort of. Jesus said that God is like a hen.

Emmett: A hen...you mean, like, a chicken?

Esther: Yes. Jesus was looking at the city of Jerusalem and said that God desired to gather the people like children the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

Emmett: I like that...a hen puts her wings around her chicks...those chicks must have felt like they were getting a big hug from their mom!

Esther: Yes, which is like wrapping a warm comfortable blanket around yourself.

Emmett: So, Jesus said God loves us like a hen, or a mother?

Esther: Jesus said that God always loves us, so when we are sad God wants to remind

us that we are loved.

Emmett: And when we feel lonely, God reminds us that we are loved.

Esther: And when we feel confused, God reminds us that we are loved.

Emmett: So, sometimes, it's like God just holds us so we know we are loved.

Esther: I think so.

Emmett: Hey...I just had what I think is a really neat idea!

Esther: I'd like to hear your really neat idea!

Emmett: Okay, here's my idea. The next time I pray to God, maybe I will pray by wrapping my favourite blanket around myself, and then feeling that the blanket is really God holding me! Isn't that a neat idea?

Esther: That is a beautiful way to pray! We don't always have to say words when we pray. Sometimes we can just feel ourselves hugged by God.

Emmett: We can feel ourselves gathered under God's wings.

Esther: Hey...I just had what I think is a really neat idea!

Emmett: Seems to be a lot of that going around lately!

Esther: Would you like to hear what I think is a really neat idea!

Emmett: I'd really like to hear your really neat idea!

Esther: When we pray, we can also think of God wrapping a blanket around the entire world!

Emmett: Wow! That's like thinking that the world is a baby that God cares about. God wraps it in a blanket and holds it!

Esther: Yes! I think God loves the whole world and wants the world to be healthy.

Emmett: God wants to gather the world like a hen gathers her chicks.

Esther: Sometimes I think God must be sad at some of the stuff that is happening in the world.

Emmett: Yes...there's war, there are people being mean to other people, there are people who are hungry...

Esther: Yes, and then we hear about climate change because we haven't cared about the world and the environment as we should have.

Emmett: I think you're right. Sometimes God must feel sad.

Esther: The next time I pray I am going to pray for the whole world. I'm going to pray that God gather the world under God's wings, that God just hold this world and love this world.

Emmett: I'm going to pray that God wrap the world in a blanket and hug the world and that everyone in the world feels God's love and starts to love everyone like God loves everyone.

Esther: I'm going to wrap myself in my favourite blanket while I pray to God to love the world.

Emmett: I'm also going to wrap myself in my favourite blanket and pray to God to hold the world so that we all feel safer and that we all feel loved.

Esther: So that we all love this world and all its people and creatures.

Emmett: And when I finish praying...I'm going to say...AMEN!

Esther: AMEN!