



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Saturday Morning Blues

Children's Story

Year B, Proper 14

Title: Saturday Morning Blues
Author: Deborah Froese
Church: First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text: John 6:35, 41-51
Theme: Jesus satisfies our deep needs
Needed: Chocolate chip cookies

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder if Pete would have played video games with Joey if he knew Joey was lonely.
- I wonder why Mom was the only one who realized Joey wanted company.
- I wonder how we can feel Jesus' love when other people are too busy to spend time with us.
- I wonder how Jesus can help us know about the things others need.

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Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they gather together for this special part of the worship service. Thank them for taking the time and having the courage to come up front and share this time with the congregation. Help them settle into a comfortable position and an attitude of holy listening by reminding them that worship is a time where we remember God is near, listen to God, and give God our love and thanks. It is because of Jesus' love that we gather and that same love that helps us be a loving and fair community. Open your Bible to John 6 and explain that today's Bible story shows us how Jesus satisfies our deep needs. Encourage them to listen, or remind them of today's Gospel reading. Today's children's story is about Joey's needs and how they get met. Listen:

Story:

Joey loved Saturday mornings. On Saturday mornings he could do whatever he wanted to do. He could watch cartoons or play video games with his big brother, Pete, or he could go to the park with his big sister, Sarah. He could even help Mom bake chocolate chip cookies or hand Dad tools as he worked on the old car in his garage. There were lots of things to do with his family.

One Saturday morning, Joey hopped out of bed, thinking about Bugs Bunny. But when he went to the family room to turn on the TV, he found his brother Pete sprawled across the sofa watching music videos. Joey didn't care much for the music that went along with the pictures. "Hey, Pete. Can I watch Bugs Bunny?" he asked.

"Nope," Pete replied. Joey thought of something else he could do and asked Pete, "Wanna play video games with me?" "Nope."

Joey sighed and headed for the kitchen, where Sarah was eating toast and jam. "Sarah, will you take me to the park?" "Not this morning, buddy," she said, tousling his hair. "I'm going shopping with my friends." Joey sighed again. "Don't be sad. I'll bring you back a candy bar," Sarah offered.

"Okay. Thanks." Joey knew she was trying to cheer him up, but the idea of candy didn't make him feel any better. He found Mom in the laundry room. "Can we make cookies this morning?" he asked. Mom closed the lid on the washing machine. "I'd love to, honey, but it was so busy at work this week that I didn't have time to do laundry. Why don't you see if you can help Dad in the garage?" Joey found Dad in the garage, but the tool box was closed and Dad was stuffing golf balls into his golf bag.

"Can we work on the car this morning?" Joey asked. "Sorry, son, but I'm golfing with a few of my buddies today." Dad winked at Joey and hopped into his car – the newer one – and he was gone. Joey went back into the house and slammed the door as loud as he could, just as Mom walked by with a basket of clean laundry. "Oh my," she said. "You don't look very happy this morning."

"This is the worst Saturday EVER," Joey said. "There's nothing to do." Mom set the laundry basket on the counter. "Well, you could play with Lego or your toy cars. Or you could make your bed." She smiled. "That's boring," Joey said. "It's ALL boring. Everybody else has fun stuff to do."

"Ah, I see," Mom said. "Everyone else is busy. Would you like to help me fold some clothes? If we work together, we just might be able to finish faster. And then we could bake some cookies." Joey thought that was the best idea he'd heard all morning.

Mom knew that what Joey really needed was to know that somebody cared enough about him to spend time with him. Knowing we are cared for feeds our spirit, just as bread and water feed our bodies. Joey's Mom gives us a bit of an idea about how much Jesus cares for us. Remembering that can help us when we feel lonely because even our Moms don't have time for us.

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for caring for us and for always being with us! Help us to show your love by spending time with people who are lonely. Amen.

