



**Mennonite  
Church  
Canada**

Resource Centre

## Ready for Rain

# Children's Story

Year B, Proper 16

**Title:** Ready for Rain  
**Author:** Deborah Froese  
**Church:** First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB  
**Text:** John 6: 56-69, especially 67-69.  
**Theme:** Jesus has the protecting words that really matter  
**Needed:** Jacket with hood

### Wondering Questions:

- I wonder if everything went wrong for Max because he was upset about disobeying his mother.
- I wonder what words of Jesus might have been helpful to Max.
- I wonder what words of Jesus would be helpful to me when I'm having a bad day.

### Gathering Activity:

Invite the children forward for that part of the worship service that uses words that matter to children because they can understand them, and these words can help them know God better. Encourage them to settle into a comfortable position for listening and thinking about important stuff. Remember together that God is near and loves it when we pay attention to the words of Jesus and his disciples. Sometimes even the disciples, who spent lots of time with Jesus, had a hard time accepting the important words he said to them. Open your Bible to John 6, explain that the disciples had just had one of those hard times and read verses 67-69. In today's children's story, Max is like the disciples, but he has a hard time accepting some important words from his mom. Listen:

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**Story:**

“Don’t forget your jacket, dear.” Mom kissed Max’s cheek and bounced baby Emma on her lap. “It’s supposed to rain later today.” “Okay, Mom!” Max waved goodbye and raced out of the living room, but he left his jacket on the hook by the back door. Mom was wrong. It wasn’t going to rain; the sky was clear and blue and the sun felt warm on his skin. Still, as he walked to school he felt an uneasy rumbling in his stomach. Mom had asked him to do something and he hadn’t listened. Even though the weather was nice, Max did not have a very good day at school. Whenever he thought about disobeying Mom, things seemed to go wrong. The home-made purple play dough stained his new t-shirt. He got so much glue on his fingers that the collage he was making stuck to his skin. It tore in two when his friend Jimmy tried to pull it off. To make matters even worse, Max’s lunch had somehow gotten mixed up with his dad’s lunch, and he had tuna sandwiches instead of baloney. Max did not like tuna. “Fish breath,” Jimmy said. Max knew Jimmy was only teasing, but it still made him feel mad inside. When the afternoon recess bell rang, Max had to stay indoors to finish his math assignment, while Jimmy and all of his other friends grabbed their jackets and went outdoors to play.

Max was having a terrible day. He watched the clouds gather outside his classroom window and he wished that he had listened to his mom and brought his jacket along. When the end-of-the-day bell rang, Max had to walk home in the rain. His purple stained t-shirt was soaked through by the time he got there.

“Oh Max, you look cold and miserable.” Mom said when she greeted him. She gave him a hug. “Come on. Let’s wrap you up in a big dry towel. Then I’ll help you find some dry clothes.”

The cloud that was hanging over Max and his terrible day seemed to lift as he enjoyed his mother’s loving hug and the big warm towel. He hugged her back and told her about his terrible day. “I’m sorry I didn’t wear my jacket, but I’m glad you didn’t scold me about it. I’ll take it next time so I don’t get so wet.”

Poor Max. Have you ever been caught in the rain without a jacket? (Put on jacket and pull up hood.) Just like this jacket can help keep us dry in the rain – if we remember to take it along – the words of Jesus and the loving actions of Jesus’ followers can protect us. Mom’s gentle words were as warm as the dry towel she wrapped Max up in. Jesus’ words are like that, too. We can wrap ourselves up in the words of Jesus, so that no matter what happens to us, we will remember that he loves us and cares for us. And, just like Mom’s advice to Max about the jacket, Jesus’ words remind us of what is good and right to do.

**Prayer:**

Jesus, we love your words! Help us to carry them in our hearts so that we can be ready for everything that comes our way. Amen.