



# Who Gets the **EXTRA SPECIAL** Banana Chocolate Chip Muffins?

## Children's Story

Year B, Proper 18

**Title:** Who Gets the Extra Special  
Banana Chocolate Chip  
Muffins?

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**Church:** St. Jacobs Mennonite  
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**Text:** Mark 7: 24-37  
(especially 24-30)

**Theme:** It is better to take a risk and  
share than to leave someone  
out

### Gathering Activity:

Invite the children, including the children of visitors, to gather for this special part of the service where we share God's good news in ways that are clear to children. Welcome them warmly, settle into comfortable positions, and model an attitude of holy expectancy. Open your Bible to Mark chapter 7 and explain that in this Bible story Jesus shares his healing in a way that is kind of risky. Read the story to them if it isn't being read elsewhere in the service. In today's children's story, Sadie also shares in a way that is risky. Listen carefully to hear how Sadie acts like Jesus in the story.

### Wondering questions:

- I wonder what Grandpa said to Sadie when he heard about how she shared.
- I wonder when it is more important to share than to listen to our parents.
- I wonder what risks Jesus wants us to take in sharing God's love.

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**Story:**

Sadie watched with bright eyes as her mom took her extra-special banana chocolate chip muffins out of the oven. Mom only made these muffins when Grandpa came for a visit. "Mom, may I please have a muffin now?" Sadie asked. Mom shook her head and said, "No, Sadie. You know that we wait until Grandpa gets here before we eat these." Sadie sighed, "Not even just one?" "No, Sadie," Mom said, "How about going outside to play until Grandpa gets here?"

Sadie put on her shoes and jacket and went outside. Sadie knew that Grandpa would be arriving soon, so she kept looking down the street, hoping to see his car. Sadie saw something strange sitting on the street corner. It looked like a pile of old dirty rags. She looked closer and saw that it was a man and the rags were his clothing. The man was holding a sign that said HUNGRY on it in big letters.

Sadie felt sad for the man; he had no food to eat and no place to live. Suddenly she had an idea! Sadie walked into her house and into the kitchen. She looked around and listened carefully. Mom was upstairs getting ready for Grandpa's visit. Slowly she went to the table holding the extra-special banana chocolate chip muffins. Sadie reached up and took the biggest one she could see and ran outside.

Out on the street corner Sadie walked up to the man holding the sign. She handed him the muffin and said, "I know that this isn't much but I hope it helps a little bit." The man smiled at her and said, "It helps more than you know. Thank you." With that Sadie went back inside.

Mom was waiting in the kitchen when Sadie returned and she did not look happy. "Sadie," she said, "you ate one of the muffins when I told you not to. You knew that you were supposed to wait until Grandpa got here." Sadie hung her

head. "I know Mom, but I didn't eat the muffin." Mom raised her eyebrows, "Really, Sadie? There is a muffin missing but you did not eat it?"

Sadie looked up at Mom and told her what had happened. "There was a man sitting on the street corner wearing dirty clothes. He had a sign that said HUNGRY on it. I know that the muffins were for Grandpa but we have so much and he did not have anything so I gave him one of the muffins. He deserved to eat, too."

Mom was quiet. Slowly, a big smile grew on her face. "You just taught me something important, Sadie," Mom said. "We do have enough to share and Grandpa will be proud of you. Sharing so that no one is hungry is what Jesus wants us to do, even if we have to take a risk like you did." Mom gave Sadie a big hug.

**Prayer:**

Thank you God, for sharing your love with all of us. Thank you for helping us share your love with everyone around us even when it is kind of risky. Amen.