



GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME
IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

I was the first time I had been asked to present the Children's Story at our church in Dothan, Alabama. I was terrified! How in the world could I describe the love of Jesus to all those little people?

After much prayer and reading of my Bible, I was finally ready but still terrified! I told the children how God can use little things to do some really great and mighty things. The children and I looked at celery seeds and talked about how big the celery stalk is compared to the tiny seed, and how small an acorn is compared to a huge oak tree.

I then told the children that Jesus took a small boy's lunch of five loaves and two fish and fed a multitude of people. The feeding of the five thousand with loaves and fish is recounted in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The crowd following Jesus that day grew into a multitude as Jesus taught and healed the sick. The disciples asked him to send the crowd away because it was late and no one had eaten. Jesus would not do that. He asked the disciples to bring the young boy's lunch to him. Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, gave thanks for the food. Each of the gospels

contains a verse similar to the one found in the Book of Matthew: "They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children" (Matthew 14:20-21). I told the children that if every man there had a wife and most of them had just one child, then Jesus fed over 12,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish, and had twelve baskets of food left!

Perhaps the greatest truth here is not the miracle that Jesus performed by the power of God but the trusting, generous and faithful heart of the young boy. He was willing to give everything he had in response to the request of Jesus. He kept nothing for himself, trusting that Jesus would supply his every need. How many of us would do the same if Jesus made that request of us?

May the Holy Spirit touch your heart as you willingly and joyfully surrender everything you are and everything you have to Him. Can you give Him your all in response to His all?

-- Leslie
Anderson, Member
of Dothan SDA
Church, Dothan,
Alabama

