

# There Is a Lad Here!

by Debby Seler



*“There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?” (John 6:9).*

I was raised attending an Assemblies of God church in northeast Pennsylvania. My church was my second home. My history took place in the '50s and '60s. The same story is repeated numerous times over in 2005! My parents and church family believed that children could serve God wholeheartedly with their lives and the small offerings they could offer. I am a product of that affirmation.

How many sermons do you remember from your childhood? One that I will never forget was preached by Harold Crosby. He was the guest preacher for a Sunday that was designated to honor the children. Brother Crosby began with his booming and expressive voice, with his pointer finger in the air, “There is a lad here!” He gave value to the children and to children’s ministries long before

a society existed with high tech children’s church programs. Brother Crosby affirmed the fact that children are: givers, witnesses, worshipers, and intercessors.

## When Church Leaders and Parents Give:

Expose the children to the needs of the world, and teach them how to give faithfully and systematically. Teach on giving



spontaneous love gifts—even if it is a good, used toy for an unfortunate situation like a house fire.

Create a heart to worship.

Foster a burden to pray around the world, including their world.

When the lad in the Scrip-

ture text gave his lunch to Andrew the disciple, he had no idea that ultimately Jesus would use it to meet the need of the vast crowd. So ask yourself these questions: What do the children in your world have to offer? What can Jesus ultimately use from their lives to impact the “hungry crowd”? How can you better teach and influence the children in your world to be givers, witnesses, worshipers, and intercessors?

Parents are influencing the future by investing in children today. As influencers we must recognize the uniqueness of every child’s offering. As Andrew pulled the “lad” into a supernatural moment, the children

in your world have the potential to be “life changers” in 2005. Perhaps our greatest need today is for parents and church leaders to create opportunities of selflessness and to create an environment that is touched by the supernatural hand of God. Teaching children to cultivate a generous spirit requires consistent attention, focused intention, and exemplary motivation.

Although nameless in our record, this lad's deed is forever etched in Bible history. His cooperation with the Almighty reveals down through the ages

that children have unlimited potential to be used of God when "Andrews" open the door of opportunity.

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**Questions for Further Study—**

1. How are you being a godly influence in the lives of the children to whom you minister?
2. In what ways have you seen the children in your ministry be used by God?
3. Give examples of how you as a children's leader encourage the children in your ministry.