



Generosity



Agents of Change

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

"What is called generosity is usually only the vanity of giving; we enjoy the vanity more. If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."



Mother Teresa

LET'S THINK ... about Generosity

When we think about generosity we usually think about being generous with money or possessions. However, we can also be generous with our time, our gifts and our abilities. Generous people often say that they receive much more than they give. Perhaps this is because when someone is generous to us, it makes us want to be generous in return.

Let's read...

Jesus feeds 5000 people

Everyone loved to see and listen to Jesus. So everywhere Jesus went, many people followed. One day a very big crowd gathered to see Jesus –more than five thousand people! There were men, women and children everywhere: sitting on the grass, standing under the trees, all trying to catch a glimpse of Jesus and hear what he had to say.

Later when he had finished teaching, Jesus went around meeting people. Everyone was having a great day and nobody wanted to go home. But the disciples began to worry.

"Jesus, you need to send these people away now," they said, "they are a long way from home and will soon be getting hungry and we don't have any food to give them."

"It's alright," Jesus said, "You can give them something to eat."

"How can we do that!" exclaimed his friends, "It would cost loads of money to feed all these people! One young boy has donated his lunch but 5 barley loaves of bread and 2 fish won't be nearly enough."

"Tell everyone to sit down ready for a picnic," said Jesus. Then he prayed to God "Thank you for this food," he said, before he gave the bread and fish to his friends to share among the crowd. They looked at each other mystified, knowing that the bread and fish would soon run out. But they began to hand out the food...and more food...and more food, until at last they realised that everyone was happily eating. "Where did all that bread and fish come from?" they wondered. "How did so little food manage to feed so many people?"

Later, when the crowd had gone home, Jesus' friends went round with baskets to pick up the leftovers. What an amazing day it had been. They had seen Jesus teach people, help people, and somehow turn 5 loaves and 2 fish into enough food for a feast that no one could ever forget!





Generosity



The Widow's Mite

Jesus had been teaching in the Temple. But now he sat down near the treasury and watched as the many visitors to the Temple passed by and dropped money into the collecting box to help with God's work.

The rich men dressed in fine robes threw in handfuls of coins as they passed, without a thought. But then a poor widow came by, paused, and placed just two mites (tiny coins) into the box.

Jesus called his disciples to him and told them what he had seen. Then he said to them, "Let me tell you, this poor widow gave more than all those people who threw many coins into the treasury. The wealthy men gave just a small part of their riches which made no difference to them. But the widow gave all that she had." You see, God is more interested in what is in the heart of the giver than the size of their gift.



Hebrews 13:16

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

