

## A SMALL PLAYER?

Scripture reference: Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many? John 6:9

Have you ever had the experience of being a bench warmer? It would probably get frustrating for you as you sat and watched your teammates play. It might even get humiliating if it was a home game and your friends would be there to watch. Maybe you hoped they thought you were injured and that is why the coach wasn't letting you play. It couldn't get worse right? Yes it could. The coach could wait until the final minute to put you in when the game's decision was in the books.

Did you ever think you could still make an impact that late in the game? Perhaps you did by the way you reacted and played in your one "big" minute. Perhaps there were young kids watching the game and were influenced by the way you handled it. Did you jump up and play enthusiastically or did you mope on the way to check in and then just stand around while in the game.

Let's take a moment to think about a person in the Bible that "gets in the game" at the final moment. Do you remember the story about Jesus preaching to a large crowd and the disciples coming to him and saying send them home before it is too late? Jesus asked his disciples how they could feed the multitudes. They said they had neither the time nor the money to feed that large a crowd. Finally someone mentioned that there was a little boy there with a couple of baskets. In one, he had two small fish and in the other were five loaves of bread. How could they feed the masses with so little? Jesus took the baskets and blessed the food and asked for God's help in feeding the thousands. The disciples passed out the food and when everyone was full, there were leftovers.

A small boy, who was probably on his way home with food his mother had sent him to get, had stopped to listen to whatever was being said by this man that attracted all of these people. Next thing he knew, he was being asked to share his meager amount of food. Even though he was a late addition to the story, he made a major impact.

When I run in one of my races, I am never in danger of winning it. But hopefully I can make an impact by the money I raised for the cause I was championing for that event. And there are a lot of runners out there just like me. Some are faster and some are slower. But we are trying to make an impact with our small donations to the charity.

Remember the next time you are doing anything, that someone may be watching to see how you react to whatever circumstances you are facing. You may be the positive influence that person needs. You may be the inspiration they need. Be like that young boy in the Bible story. Share your gifts, no matter how small they may be. You may turn out to be really surprised by the impact you make.<sup>22</sup>