

THE SHARING PROBLEM

By Don Hyun

(Based on a true story)

Crunch, crunch, crunch. Andrew swallowed his popcorn and grabbed another handful.

His older brother, Caleb, plopped down on the couch beside him. "Hey, can I have some?"

Andrew didn't look away from the TV. "No."

"Aw, come on. You can share."

Caleb reached for the bowl, but Andrew snatched it away.

"No! I already told you before. Don't ask again!"

"Fine." Caleb got up and left the room.

The next day, Andrew went into the kitchen. Caleb was making some sushi with rice, seaweed, and canned pork.

Andrew's mouth watered. "Can I have some?"

"No," Caleb said.

That made Andrew really mad. He ran downstairs to tell Dad.

"Why is Caleb being so selfish?" he asked.

Dad frowned. "I saw yesterday that you wouldn't share your popcorn. Why should Caleb share with you after you didn't share with him?"

"Because he's my brother!" Andrew said.

"Then why didn't you share with him?"

"He never shares with me either! Besides, I made it for myself, not him," Andrew said. But he felt a little bad. Maybe it was mean of him not to share.

"Did you know that in Korea, sharing is really important?" Dad asked. Andrew's family was from Korea. "Sharing is a way to show someone you care about them. So if you don't share, it's kind of like saying that you don't care about them."

"But I do care about Caleb."

Andrew thought about what Jesus might do. He remembered how Jesus loved everyone—even those who were unkind to Him.

"I think I'm going to share with Caleb tomorrow and see how it turns out," he told Dad.

Dad smiled. "I think that's a good idea."

When Andrew went to bed that night, he thought about other nice things he could do for Caleb. He was excited to start sharing!

The next morning, Andrew woke up to a surprise. Caleb had made breakfast just for him!

"Dad talked to me about sharing," Caleb said. "I want to do better. So I made this for you."

"Thanks!" Andrew said. "I want to do better too."

Later that day, Andrew and Caleb watched a movie. Andrew let Caleb pick which one. Then he made some popcorn just for Caleb! He looked inside the bowl. It was like the popcorn was saying, "EAT ME!" But Andrew didn't take any. He gave Caleb the bowl and said, "This is all yours. I'm sorry I didn't share before."

Andrew shared with Caleb all week. He let Caleb read his books. He let Caleb use his markers. He let Caleb play with his favorite toy. He even gave Caleb an extra turn when they were playing a game.

The more Andrew shared with Caleb, the more Caleb shared with him! Soon they were doing nice things for each other all the time. Andrew knew that Heavenly Father was helping him share with his brother. Andrew wasn't perfect like Jesus, but he was trying to be more like Him every day. ●

This story took place in the USA.

ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM HOWLING

