

# READY TO FORGIVE AND START AGAIN

Something rather unusual happened to me during these last few months at school. Almost every day someone would stuff one or two bricks into my backpack.



I was getting irritated with this daily "surprise," and my backpack and the contents were getting quite dirty. I even threatened my classmates that I would report the incident to the principal. At first, I didn't have a clue as to who was playing this prank, but I surely didn't think it was funny.

Days went by and, and even though I found out who was behind it, the practical joke kept on happening. I was really tempted to respond in the same measure, and I don't even know how I managed to restrain myself.

One day, I told a friend what had happened. He immediately said, "You are right to be upset. Why don't you try talking to that person, but remember not to overreact and to keep charity."

The next day at school, once again I found the "surprise" in my backpack. Keeping calm, I walked over to my classmate and spoke to him. From that day on, there were no more bricks in my backpack.



Mauro - Italy

## "BELOVED, DO NOT GRUMBLE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER."

Can you tell me the reason behind this invitation from the Apostle James?

Even in the first Christian communities there were situations similar to what we find in our communities today. There can be situations that make it very **difficult to live our faith**, or perhaps our fellow Christians are not living according to the Christian ideal.

What are the consequences of that?

These situations can cause people to be unhappy, distrustful or confused, and they start to complain.

When this happens, what should I do?

A Christian should not react hastily, or be impatient or uncompromising, but rather follow what Jesus taught.

And what are His teachings?

He tells us to wait patiently, to be merciful and understanding of others. We should have great love, and that will help the "good" seed in each person to grow and develop.

And so, how should I live the Word of Life for this month?

We, too, belong to various communities (the family, the parish, the school community, associations) where unfortunately many things may take place that don't seem right to us: conflicting points of view, ways of behavior that sadden us, or people who are not living up to their beliefs....

This requires a PROACTIVE RESPONSE: **add MORE LOVE wherever there is LESS!**

### MemoryCard

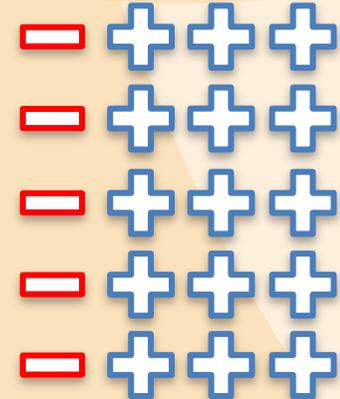


MY PROACTIVE RESPONSE:

WHEN I SEE THE POSSIBLE FAILURES OF OTHERS TO LOVE OR TO LIVE UP TO THEIR COMMITMENTS, I WILL RESPOND WITH GREATER EFFORT, AND ESPECIALLY BY HAVING GREATER LOVE.

### In Action...

Where there is LESS LOVE I will try to ADD LOVE



Whenever I feel some lack of love, from me or others, I will try to do 3 acts of love towards someone.

CUT AND FOLD IN HALF, YOU CAN USE THE INSIDE OF THIS CARD TO WRITE YOUR COMMENTS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS WORD OF LIFE.

CUT OUT THIS PART, WHEN YOU FOLD IT, IT BECOMES A USEFUL CARD TO TAKE AROUND WITH YOU.