

A LOVE THAT... IS THE GREATEST GIFT

T E E N S ' B O O K M A R K

I Care becomes a bookmark it will accompany you this month and help you live this Word of Life.

LUCIO
BRAZIL



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**PUT MYSELF
IN THE OTHER PERSON'S
"SHOES"**

For quite a while I was having a very hard time at home. I often fought with my younger brother.

When he came home from school, to avoid a fight, I stayed in my room and only went out when I heard the front door slam. That meant he had gone out for his soccer practice.

Soccer was the reason for all the quarrels in my. For my brother, soccer was even more important than school. Even his grades were suffering from it. My parents had already decided to pull him out off the team.

At first, I really didn't care about this decision, and actually, I was kind of happy about it.

But then I thought I should put myself in my brother's "shoes." So, I tried to see this situation from his point of view.

The first thing I realized was that none of us, none of his family, had ever gone to one of his soccer games. So I suggested to my mom and dad that we surprise Artur and go to his game.

Halfway through the game, he saw all of us there watching him play. It gave him a big boost of energy! At the end of the game, he came running over to us. You could see he was very happy we were there.

Interestingly enough, from that day on, we noticed that he was working harder at school.

I've also grown closer to him, helping him with his homework and becoming one of his best fans!



WORD OF LIFE

«I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE. WHOEVER COMES TO ME WILL NEVER BE HUNGRY, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY.» (Jn 6:35)

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From a commentary by Chiara Lubich – Adapted by the Gen 3 Center



**A BREAD
THAT HAS THE POWER
TO TRANSFORM US
INTO... LOVE**

In his Gospel John narrates that, after the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus said: "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you" (Jn 6:27)

JESUS OFFERS HIMSELF AS THE TRUE "BREAD THAT COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN," WHICH HAS TO BE ACCEPTED THROUGH FAITH.

Jesus always saw himself as bread. That was the ultimate purpose of his life on earth: to become bread in order to be eaten. To become bread in order to communicate his life to us, to change us into himself.

This is Jesus' greatest gift to humanity! This intimate union with him present in the Eucharist satisfies our body and soul and gives us the fullness of joy.



**THE EXAMPLE OF
BREAD
AS A WAY
TO LOVE**

This bread nourishes us with him here on earth, and it is given to us so that we in turn can satisfy the spiritual and material hunger of the people around us.

THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, THANKS TO THE EUCHARIST, BECOMES THE LIFE OF JESUS — A LIFE CAPABLE OF GIVING LOVE, THE LIFE OF GOD, TO OTHERS.



**WHAT DOES
LOVING
MEAN?**

Loving means "making ourselves one" with everyone, making ourselves one with what others want, in the smallest and most insignificant things, in things that might not be very important to us but that others are interested in. **Making ourselves one to the point of allowing ourselves to be "eaten" by others.** **THIS IS LOVE: MAKING OURSELVES ONE IN A WAY THAT MAKES OTHERS FEEL NOURISHED BY OUR LOVE, SO THEY FEEL COMFORTED, UPLIFTED, UNDERSTOOD.**