

In my country none of the kids my age have ever experienced peace, because we were born and grew up during a war that's still going on.

In fact, many young people have no hope that we will ever have a better world.

But I think that a world united and at peace is possible, even though all the news we see on TV and the internet shows us just the opposite.

I believe in it because I have seen the commitment of thousands of children, teens and adults who have been living for this for years.

I remember a time when a few of my classmates were treating me badly for no reason.

I prayed for each one of them, and to show that I didn't have anything against them, I also did many acts of love for them, like sending a small gift to one, or calling another one, or visiting another one at home... After a while they started to talk to me, to say hello every day, and then we even began hanging out together.

I am convinced that the world <u>will</u> change as long as each one of us first changes our own heart.





Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, where he would live the last part of his life.

Many people wanted to follow him and so he told them:

«If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me (Mk 8:34)

Following Jesus requires a commitment! Jesus had just asked Peter for that, when he scolded him for thinking like humans and not like God.

But «denying» yourself seems like an oldfashioned, unpleasant word! Denying ourselves means that we think and act like Jesus would in our place, even when that's hard to do.

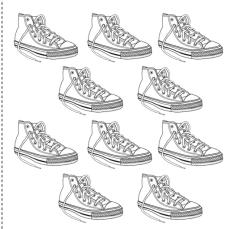
Why do we have to take up **«our own cross»?** 

Because we find more joy in giving than in receiving, in offering our life for love of others, even if it costs us.

Give me an example..

It's like the grain of wheat that has to die to produce fruit. But we are not alone because Jesus is with us!

How does the other person want to be loved? Let's put ourselves in the shoes of others and ask: how would I like to be treated if I were them?



Every time I love someone, even when it's hard for me, I will color in one shoe.