

A LOVE THAT... BRINGS GREAT JOY.

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

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

THIAGO

BRAZIL



6

IF I LOVE, I AM TRULY HAPPY – THAT'S HOW I WANT TO LIVE!

I was in a class where no one was interested in learning. I sat in the back of the room, didn't talk to anyone and didn't get involved with what the others were doing, because I was afraid of getting mixed up with bad company.

I didn't even know the name of the guy sitting next to me, and anyway he did nothing but play on his phone during class. After a few days, I decided to change to another class. It seemed impossible to bring any love into that group.

A few months later, I learned that the guy who had been sitting next to me was in prison for a terrible crime. It was a shock for me and I felt I was guilty too, since I hadn't done anything for him!

I felt really bad and couldn't stop thinking of the many ways I could have loved him. I might have been able to show him a different kind of life, and instead I hadn't even tried - I just gave up on him!

"Something like this will never happen again," I promised myself. I began relating to all my peers in a totally new way, starting by saying "Hello!"

It was something small, but I tried to be bright and cheery, and those who responded seemed to feel the love. It was great! Eventually, some of my classmates began to tell me: "You don't know how good it makes me feel when you say 'Good morning' to me! You're the only person who's nice to me."

Now I know everyone in my class much better. And I've noticed that by starting with a small gesture you can change not only yourself, but also the lives of those around you.

After reading Thiago's experience, what goes through your mind?

«AND REMEMBER, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE» (Mt 28:20)

6

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

I KNOW

THAT HE IS

BESIDE ME

ALWAYS

I LOOK

FOR YOU

IN EVERY

NEIGHBOR

A LOVE

THAT ALWAYS

COVERS OVER

EVERYTHING

Jesus spoke these words to his disciples after he had given them the task of **bringing his message** to the whole world.

He was well aware that he was sending them out like sheep among wolves and that they would face resistance and persecution. **That's why he didn't want to leave them alone in their mission.** So, at the very moment he was leaving them, he promised to stay!

Jesus was also thinking of all of us living in the midst of the complexities of daily life.

Because he is Love incarnate, he must have thought to himself: "I would like to be with human beings always, I would like to share every worry with them. I would like to counsel them. I would like to walk with them along the streets, enter their homes, give them new joy with my presence."

This Word of Life is the last thing **Jesus** said to his disciples, and marked the end of his life on earth. At the same time, it was the start of the life of the Church where Jesus is **present in many ways**:

in the Eucharist, in his Word, in his ministers (bishops, priests), in the poor, in the little ones, in the marginalized... in all neighbors.

If we live what he asks of us, especially his new commandment, **we can experience his presence even when we are not in church. We will feel him with us in the midst of people, everywhere.**

All we have to do is to **love one another, serving and understanding one another**, and share the sufferings, anxieties and joys of our brothers and sisters.