

Let's live
like this!

*I believe the world
can live in peace.*

Kheder

In my country none of the kids my age have 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 will change as long as each one of us first changes our own heart.

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«If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me »

(Mk 8:34)

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...»

Following Jesus requires a commitment. **It means sharing his life and his destiny** – suffering failure and hostility and even death, although there is also joy and enthusiasm, too.

The first step is to distance ourselves from a selfish way of thinking.

That was the step Jesus asked Peter to take when he scolded him for thinking like humans and not like God.

Like Peter, at times we, too, want to assert ourselves and act in a self-centered way.

To deny oneself means to enter into the way God thinks, which is what Jesus showed us by how he acted.

«To follow Jesus I commit myself to taking the first step towards those who are in most need.»

It's the same logic as the grain of wheat that must die in order to bear fruit, or finding more joy in giving than in receiving, or offering our life out of love...

It means **taking up our own cross**, which means all the difficulties we encounter in our day. And we know that **we are not alone, because Jesus carries the cross with us.** This is how we can follow Jesus and really become his disciples.

In every moment of weakness we will find strength because we will find Jesus.

«And so every obstacle can become a springboard!»