

Let's live  
like this..

The power of  
forgiveness

Flora

Three years ago, when my parents separated, I thought I would never be able to forgive my father.

I was very disappointed in him – he had always been a model for me and yet now he had chosen another family instead of us. At the same time, I felt the strong need to forgive him.

A few days ago, he called me and said: "Tonight I want to take you out for dinner, just the two of us." I was very happy!

After school I waited for a long time, but he didn't showed up. Then my phone rang. "Hi! This is Dad. I can't make it tonight – do you want to go to breakfast tomorrow instead?" I was so upset I just hung up on him without saying a word.

The next day was Sunday. When I went to church, I offered Jesus my suffering and found the strength to forgive my Dad.

Coming out of the church, guess who I saw? My father! He was waiting to take me for breakfast! I gave him a big smile and said Hi.

He was surprised at my greeting, because he was expecting me to be angry about what happened the day before.

But this time, after taking the step to forgive him, not only was my anger toward him gone, but I wasn't even sad anymore and I felt free to love him.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ." (Eph. 2:4-5)

These words of the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians refers to the Old Testament when the Lord God appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai and told him that he will always be merciful toward the people.

What does "merciful" mean??

It means that God loves us like a mother loves her child. He cares for us, protects us, is always with us.

We can all experience his great love! He is ready to forgive us every time we fail and is confident that we will start over again.

It makes me think of many parables in the Gospel, like the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son. Let's read one of them...

If God Loves us like this, and if he loves those who are bad, and are his enemies, **we too have to learn how to love those who are not lovable.**

Even our enemies??

Yes, even those who hurt us! We have to love them, too!

Living like this we will give witness to God's love and help those we meet discover that also for them God is rich in mercy and of great love.

Prepare a skit of a parable that shows what it means to be merciful!



Then present it to others and explain how we can do the same!

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FORGIVE AND  
START AGAIN