

This is how we live...

I believe in a world at peace

Kheder

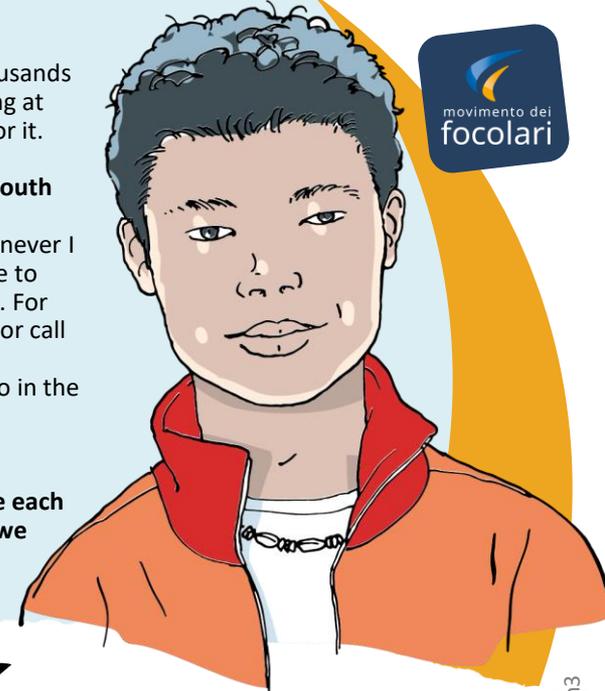
All the teenagers in my country were born and grew up during a war that went on for years and so they have never experienced living in a time of peace. Many of them have lost hope in a better world.

Instead I think it is possible to have a world that is united and at peace, even though the media doesn't talk about it.

I believe because I have seen hundreds and thousands of teens, youth and adults who have been aiming at this goal for a very long time, giving their lives for it.

I remember one period in my life when some youth had it against me for no apparent reason. I entrusted each one of those teens to God whenever I said my prayers and I invented many acts of love to make them feel that I had nothing against them. For example, I would send one of them a small gift, or call another one, or go and visit another. After a while they started to talk to me, say hello in the morning and then we even started hanging out together.

I am convinced that the world will change if we each change ourselves from within. That's the step we need to take!



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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 going towards Jerusalem which meant he was reaching the end of his life.

He told all the people who wanted to follow him:

«If any want to become my followers...»

Following Jesus is a big commitment. It means sharing his life and his destiny which means failure, hostility and even death, but it also gives us great joy and enthusiasm.

How can we follow Jesus?

The first step is to distance ourselves from a self-centered attitude.

This is the step that Jesus asked of Peter when he chastised him for thinking in a human way and not like God. We, too, can make the same mistake that Peter did. Sometimes we want to affirm ourselves and say that we know better than God.

Denying ourselves means to enter into God's way of seeing things. Jesus showed us how to do this in the way he spoke and acted.

“To follow Jesus I take the commitment to be the first to go out towards those who most need my help.”

The same thing happens with the grain of wheat that has to die in order to bear fruit, or when we find more joy in giving than in receiving, or when we give our lives out of love...

In other words, it means that we have to **take up our own cross**, which includes all the various difficulties we encounter during the day, knowing **that we are not alone because Jesus carries them with us.**

That's how a person who follows Jesus becomes a true disciple.

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

“Therefore, every obstacle can become a springboard.”