

Bella

Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command. John 15:12-14 NIV

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 NIV

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 NIV

José was on his way to fame and fortune as a soccer player when a terrible accident changed everything. The death of the young girl who ran out in front of his car haunted him and changed his goals and plans forever. Has there been something in your life that has changed your future? In what way? If you still carry guilt, ask God to forgive and heal you. He can take away the pain of the past and help you start again.

José held his hand over the burner on the stove until it hurt. When we make mistakes, we often punish ourselves over and over, even though it doesn't really take the pain away. God tells us we can come to Him, confess our failures, and He will give us peace. If you have mistakes from the past and insecurities that haunt you, take them to God in prayer. What are some ways you punish yourself? Confess your weaknesses and mistakes to Him and let Him give you His healing and strength. He can give you peace.

Nina cried hopelessly because she carried a child within her. José cried hopelessly because he was responsible for the death of a child. Neither could see any hope for the future. When we are full of fear, remorse, regret, or anger we can't function properly. Many times our emotional reactions paralyze us and keep us from viewing our problems objectively and finding solutions. God invites us to give Him our fears and failures. He says we should trust in Him. Ask Him to take away the emotions that cloud your vision.

Jose's father said to Nina, "The accident cost him his passion, and you can't play soccer without passion." Although José lost his passion for soccer, as a result of his accident he gained a passion for life. God has created each of us to live passionately for Him and for each other.

What is your passion for living? Is it a worthy goal? What would you like to achieve in life? Have your passions changed over the years?

When Nina and José were walking to the beach together she asked him, "Is it always like that? Did you grow up with all of that joy and love?" His response was, "That's nothing, when my whole family gets together ... It's beautiful."

Is it beautiful when your family gets together? Do you make it more beautiful?

Nina asked José how Manny feels about being adopted. José says, "To us it doesn't make a difference." Nina told Jose about her family and how she and her mother couldn't relate after her father died. In a loving family anyone can be accepted. In a family that is fragmented and suffering even the members can feel unloved. When José raised Nina's child it was a healing and a blessing for all three of them.

Dear Lord, we thank You for Your grace. We've made plenty of mistakes in life and sometimes we don't know where to turn. Thank You for promising that You will make all things work together for our good when we love You. Take the fragments of our lives and make them into something beautiful. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.