

# STAFF DISCUSSION JOURNAL

## *Going Deeper*

### PART 1

## Scripture Reflection

As a staff, take a few moments to sit in total silence. Silence is a rare commodity and central to how God speaks with us.

Slowly read aloud this passage from Hebrews Chapter 4

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,<sup>f</sup> Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.



If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great

Pope Benedict XVI

Now, take a few moments in silence and then read it one more time.

## Questions For Group Discussion:

This scripture talks about a God who can empathize with our weaknesses and suffering. Do you feel God is present in the hard times in your life? Share with your group your own experience of your sense of God's presence or absence at key moments in your life.

How do you feel students perceive the presence of God during times of hardship and suffering? What do you feel is their default vision of God? How can you and your colleagues help them encounter, 'the God who suffers with them?'

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### PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote from The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School n.20

For many young people, a critical look at the world they are living in leads to crucial questions on the religious plane. They ask whether religion can provide any answers to the pressing problems afflicting humanity. They are deeply disturbed by the injustice which divides the free and the rich from the poor and the oppressed

In what ways does your school help young people to navigate these great questions of human suffering? What more could be done?

### STAFF PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for entering into the human condition.

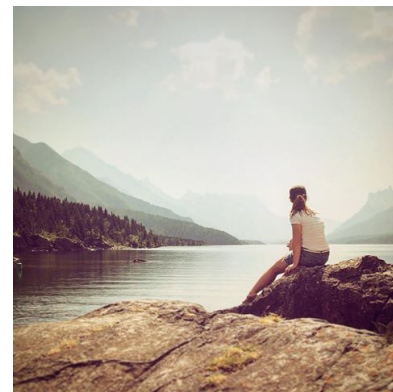
Thank you for caring so much about us that you entered human history, took flesh and bore our grief and sorrows.

Truly Lord, you are not distant from us but feel our sorrows with us each and every day.

We pray this week for a revelation in our own lives of your presence with us in our hardships. Give us the grace, in turn, to help our students encounter the solace and consolation of the God who suffers with us.

We pray this in your name

Amen



No harm can come to me since, in whatever happens, I see only the tender hand of Jesus.

St. Therese of Lisieux