

# 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 Philippians 4

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

## Questions For Group Discussion:

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

Why do we, as Christians, have good reason to rejoice in the Lord? What are some examples that this passage gives of how God brings joy and peace into our lives?

In what ways does being joyful better enable us to witness to our students? How can it break through barriers of indifference and doubt?



"Joy is a net of love by which we catch souls."

Mother Teresa

### PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote from The Religious Dimension of Education In a Catholic School n.71

"With kindness and understanding, they will accept the students as they are, helping them to see that doubt and indifference are common phenomena and that the reasons for this are readily understandable. But they will invite students in a friendly manner to seek and discover together the message of the Gospel, the source of joy and peace."

How well do you think this school has followed this in the past? How can we better invite students to encounter the Gospel now?

### STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the joy that you bring to our lives. Thank you for the opportunity that we have as teachers to witness to young people of your love.

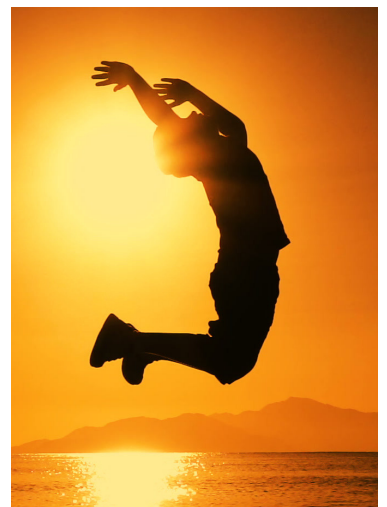
Help us to possess what we intend to share with our students. Help us to encounter the joy of the Gospel. May your love for us and for our students transform how we teach and relate to them.

Open our students' hearts to your Gospel. Rid them of all doubt and indifference so that nothing may stand in the way of them encountering you.

Help us to be effective witnesses of you. Help us to reach our students with gentleness, respect and joy.

In your name, Jesus, we pray.

Amen.



"In God alone is there primordial and true delight, and in all our delights it is this delight that we are seeking."

St. Bonaventure