

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 Jeremiah 29

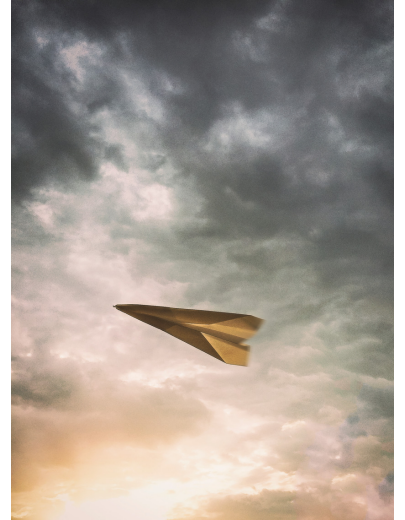
11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the Lord..."

Now, take a few moments in silence and read it one more time and then discuss the following questions in a small group

Questions For Group Discussion:

What is your sense of how students look at the future? Do you feel they have a sense of meaning and purpose?

What factors do you feel can impact their experience of hope and meaning? In what specific ways can your teaching and the work of your school community help to give students a deeper sense of meaning in life?



Refuse to be average.
Let your heart soar as
high as it will.

AW TOZER

PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the issues listed from the document The Catechism of the Catholic Church.

- *The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every person; it takes up the hopes that inspire their activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps them from discouragement; it sustains them during times of abandonment; it opens up their hearts in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, they are preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.*

What can you do to support each other as colleagues in terms of resisting a sense of 'discouragement'? How can you increase the experience of hope as a christian teaching community?



What an encouragement to realize that God has reserved you and me for a special task in His great work. In His hands we're not only useful, but priceless.

Joni Ericson Tada

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

We pray for the grace to be sources of encouragement for our students and for each other.

Help us to show young people that despite all the sorrow in our world there is still meaning and hope and purpose in the path of Jesus.

Help us to be lights of hope in the life of each young person. Let us be a source of healing for those young hearts already wounded by the difficulties of life.

We pray for the grace to be counter-cultural witnesses to your new way of life. Help us to speak light and life and purpose into all we meet in the coming week.

In your name we pray....amen.