

## STAFF DISCUSSION

# Going Deeper

### PART #1

## Scripture Reflection

### STEP ONE

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.

### STEP TWO

After some time in silence, have one person read the following scripture aloud:

### *A Reading from the Gospel of Luke Chapter 19 1 - 10*

*"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.*

*5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.*

*7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."*

*8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

*9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

### STEP THREE

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

## Questions for Discussion

### QUESTION ONE

There is a lot happening in this special Gospel story. We see Zacchaeus desperate to encounter Jesus and we see his life radically transformed by joy and gratitude at the acceptance and mercy of Jesus. In a small group share your thoughts on these questions.:

1. How (like Zacchaeus) are you seeking Jesus in your life at the moment?
2. Have you ever experienced joy when really reflecting on what Jesus has done for you?



"I was really given an opportunity to look back at my life again too, look back at the screw-ups I have made, to appreciate all the amazing things I've done and experienced in ways that I never really understood in the past.

PETER GRESTE

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### PART #2

#### STEP ONE

Take a moment to read the following quote from the Church documents:

*"Mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message; it is the very name of God, the Face with which he revealed himself in the Old Covenant and fully in Jesus Christ, the incarnation of creative and redemptive Love. May this merciful love also shine on the face of the Church and show itself through the sacraments, in particular that of Reconciliation, and in works of charity, both communitarian and individual. May all that the Church says and does manifest the mercy God feels for each human person."*

*~Pope Benedict XVI, Regina Caeli address, March 30, 2008*

#### STEP TWO

What stands out for you in the quote above? If encountering God's mercy is a precondition of encountering his joy, how does your school allow staff and students to encounter that mercy? What could be trialled or attempted? The sacrament of reconciliation?

### Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

We pray this week for an encounter with both mercy and with joy.

Let us bring mercy, patience and joy to each other in all the small moments of each day.

Give us all a deepening awareness of your great mercy for each one of us and may that knowledge lead us to ever deeper joy.

We ask this Lord Jesus in your name.

Amen



*"We are at Jesus' disposal. If he wants you to be sick in bed, if he wants you to proclaim His work in the street, if he wants you to clean the toilets all day, that's all right, everything is all right. We must say, "I belong to you. You can do whatever you like." And this is our strength. This is the joy of the Lord."*

MOTHER TERESA