

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 Matthew 19: 16 - 22

JUST THEN A MAN CAME UP TO JESUS AND ASKED, TEACHER, WHAT GOOD THING MUST I DO TO GET ETERNAL LIFE? "WHY DO YOU ASK ME ABOUT WHAT IS GOOD? JESUS REPLIED. THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO IS GOOD. IF YOU WANT TO ENTER LIFE, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS. WHICH ONES? HE INQUIRED. JESUS REPLIED, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," AND 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' "ALL THESE I HAVE KEPT," THE YOUNG MAN SAID. "WHAT DO I STILL LACK?" JESUS ANSWERED, "IF YOU WANT TO BE PERFECT, GO, SELL YOUR POSSESSIONS AND GIVE TO THE POOR, AND YOU WILL HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN. THEN COME, FOLLOW ME. WHEN THE YOUNG MAN HEARD THIS, HE WENT AWAY SAD, BECAUSE HE HAD GREAT WEALTH.

STEP THREE

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

Questions for Small Group Discussion

QUESTION ONE

What do you think are some of the main reasons that make it hard for today's young people to respond to Jesus' invitation to relationship with him?

QUESTION TWO

How do you share your faith with students? Do you find it easy to share with them or not? What barriers or blockages make it hard for you to talk to them about God, the Gospel or the gifts of God in your own life?



"THE WORLD DIVORCED FROM THE GOD WHO CREATED AND REDEEMED IT INEVITABLY COMES TO A BAD END. IT'S ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ONLY HISTORY THAT FINALLY MATTERS."

CARDINAL ROBERT GEORGE

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PART #2

STEP ONE

Take a moment to read the following quote from Lay Catholics In Schools - Witnesses to Faith.

"PEOPLE ARE MADE FOR HAPPINESS. RIGHTLY, THEN, YOU THIRST FOR HAPPINESS. CHRIST HAS THE ANSWER TO THIS DESIRE OF YOURS. BUT HE ASKS YOU TO TRUST HIM. TRUE JOY IS A VICTORY, SOMETHING WHICH CANNOT BE OBTAINED WITHOUT A LONG AND DIFFICULT STRUGGLE. CHRIST HOLDS THE SECRET OF THIS VICTORY."

JOHN PAUL II - MESSAGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE WYD 2002

STEP TWO

John Paul II clearly identifies Christ as the source of the happiness that young people seek. How effective is your school at bringing young people into an encounter with Jesus? What more could be done? What needs to be resourced? What strategies could be attempted?

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank you for the gift of each student in our school community. Even those that are wounded and resistant to love are your precious children.

Give us the grace to take your good news to them with courage and gentleness and wisdom. Give us the insight and spiritual sensitivity to know how and when to share with them more of whom you are and of your desire to see them swept up in your great adventure of redemption and purpose and happiness.

Give us the hunger also to go deeper into an encounter with you ourselves. Remind us each day that we cannot give what we have not received.

We make this prayer in your name.

Amen



"THE ABSENCE OF GOD IS WORSE THAN MATERIAL POVERTY BECAUSE IT KILLS EVERY FIRM HOPE AND LEAVES THE PERSON ALONE WITH HIS PAIN."

ARCHBISHOP PAUL CORDES