

# STAFF DISCUSSION

## Going Deeper

### PART #1

### Scripture Reflection

Scripture makes it very clear that God wants to give us good things. He wants to actually give each of us the Holy Spirit to deepen our sense of vocation.

#### 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 Book of Kings Chapter 19 v.11*

*"The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."*

*Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave."*

#### STEP THREE

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

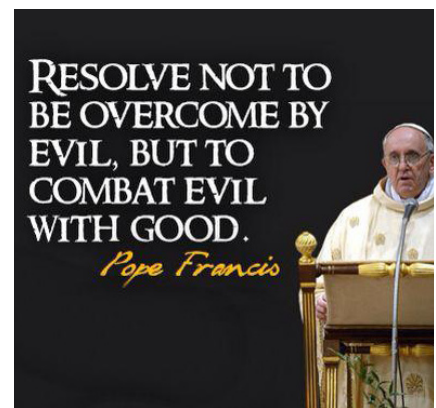
### Questions for Discussion

#### QUESTION ONE

We often assume that the spiritual or 'supernatural' action of God will be spectacular. As such, what message do you think this scripture is trying to communicate?

#### QUESTION TWO

In your opinion what role does silence play in the life of your school at the moment? What practical ways could this be addressed?



"In the history of the Church there have been two classes of Christians: Christians of words - those, 'Lord, Lord, Lord', and Christians of action - in truth."

POPE FRANCIS

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### PART #2

#### STEP ONE

Take a moment to read the following quote:

*"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls."*

--Blessed Mother Teresa

#### STEP TWO

Share an experience with the group of a time when you encountered deep silence.

### Closing Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the gift of silence.

In a busy and hectic world it seems to be something we can easily forget to seek.

Please, this day, place a desire in all our hearts to seek you more often through the sacrament of silence. Give us a hunger to find you beyond the earthquake, fire and wind and to hear you in the gentlest whispers of silence and stillness.

We also pray that moments of silence will touch our shared life in this community. Teach us to be silent together and to bring the gift of silence to our students also.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



*"You don't think your way into a new kind of living. You live your way into a new kind of thinking."*

HENRI NOUWEN