

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 Matthew 11 - 28 - 30

COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM GENTLE AND LOWLY IN HEART, AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT."

STEP THREE

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

Questions for Discussion

STEP ONE

Who are the brokenhearted among you? As a small group try and identify those in your community who are lonely, overlooked or crushed in spirit.

STEP TWO

In what ways are we currently bringing the brokenhearted in our school community, "...rest for their souls"? In what ways can we help them encounter Jesus who wants to be closer to them? In what ways are we being the presence of Christ to them? What could we attempt?



"THE BEST WAY TO HELP THE WORLD IS TO START BY LOVING EACH OTHER, NOT BLANDLY, BLINDLY, BUT REALISTICALLY, WITH UNDERSTANDING AND FOREBEARANCE AND FORGIVENESS"

MADELEINE L'ENGLE

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PART #2

STEP ONE

Take a moment to read the following quote:

"A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner."

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

STEP TWO

How does the realisation that Christ died for the person in our community that we like the least impact us? What would our community be like if we seriously and constantly took the above quote to heart?

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

We pray this week for a deeper awareness of the counter-cultural witness of this community.

In a world of broken relationships and many wounds we pray that we would be a counter-sign of friendship, patience and commitment to each other.

Help us to identify the lonely and overlooked among us. Give us insight and sensitivity to their silent cries for love and belonging. Give us also the courage and commitment to go out to them each day with the words of kindness, encouragement and genuine warmth.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



"NEVER BELIEVE ANYTHING
BAD ABOUT ANYBODY
UNLESS YOU POSITIVELY
KNOW IT TO BE TRUE;
NEVER TELL EVEN THAT
UNLESS YOU FEEL THAT IT
IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY
- AND THAT GOD IS
LISTENING WHILE YOU TELL
IT."

WILLIAM PENN