

Welcome to Teachers Talking e-newsletter



TEACHERS TALKING

FORWARD  
FROM  
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Hello Friend,

During Terms 2, 3 Teachers Talking will focus on teaching for discipleship. As teachers, we are aware that discipleship as 'long obedience in the same direction' is against the flow of modern culture and infinitely harder for our young people, but as Os Guinness says "Discipleship for the advanced modern world is a priority for our time." How do we provide an education where students are raised up to be responsive disciples of Jesus?

A Gospel-shaped education is like a diamond. Diamonds get their brilliance from three things: **Reflection**, **Refraction** and **Dispersion**.

**Reflection** is that light that bounces off immediately giving the diamond an instantaneous shine. Only a portion of the light hitting a diamond is reflected; the rest travels through it. As the light moves through it, it is scattered and

fractured, creating the 'sparkling diamond'. This is **refraction**. As the light is angled around the inside of the diamond from before passing back towards the top and out through the surface. This rainbow effect, **dispersion**, adds to the shine.

As we know Christ more deeply and are led by His Spirit, His Word enables our imaginations to be liberated to plan and practise education in ways which are distinctive and contrasted to schools grounded in an alternate vision of the good life. Our Schools are to be bearers of the Light.

We trust these Term 2 talks will encourage you as teachers to embrace your significant part in the journey of inspiring students to embrace the path of discipleship.

Matthew 28:19, 20 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you to the end of the Age."*

Grace and Peace,

The Team





Number 1:

## ALMOST CHRISTIAN

In the book *Almost Christian* by K Dean, she cites a longitudinal research study (2000 – 2005) of youth ministry in America which focussed on adolescent spirituality. It found that often their faith was a loveless version of what the study called “Christian’s misbegotten step cousin, Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, which is supplanting Christianity as the dominant faith.” In a nutshell this faith is about being “nice, feeling good about yourself and saving God for emergencies.”

Certainly, the evidence of this study is reflected across Western Christianity to varying degrees. This do-good and feel-good spirituality which often doesn’t survive University has little to do with the enduring love for Jesus Christ which enables one to follow Him into the world.

In reality, this may be the faith of many of our young people in “our culturally post-Christian individualistic, mass-consumer ... society”.

Together we must recognise that our faith depends on whom we follow and that depends on whom we love. K Smith says “I might be able to think about the world from a Christian perspective, at the end of the day I love not the Kingdom of God but rather the kingdom of the market.”

As Christians, faith is about loving and trusting the God-man, Jesus Christ, belonging to a community who love Him and follow Him into the world. This is the journey of discipleship. The difference between an almost Christian and a disciple is one of love.

*“Dear Friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God”. (1 John 4:7)*

Let us consider what this means for our schools and our own personal calling?

- Do we keep coming back to the reason why we teach (not just the what

and how) and to the purpose that calls us and our students?

- What does it mean for you personally to be a disciple of Jesus? Is your life shaped by the priorities of God's Kingdom?
- Has consumer-driven individualism eroded our capacity to allow Christ's sacrificial life to directly challenge the self-fulfillment and self-actualisation of secular education?
- How do we assist our students to love God with their whole being and their neighbours as themselves?

A thought to ponder

Let us be challenged by the words of CS Lewis

*"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it can't be is moderately important."*

Grace and Peace



That's all for now, read more at [www.theexcellencecentre.org](http://www.theexcellencecentre.org)

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