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TEACHERS TALKING

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



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





Os Guinness in his book *Impossible People*, says that “*Christians in the West are living in a great clarifying moment*” as the gap between Christians and the wider culture is widening and that “we face a solemn hour for humanity at large.”

As it is an ‘anything goes’ culture, it should be no surprise that many of our students, despite privilege and possessions, have a sense of hopelessness when faced with the reality of life.

If we are to be signposts of hope in the 21st Century to the present and future generations, we ourselves must be immersed in the Gospel of Christ revealed through the whole Biblical Story. The Gospel of Christ is always counter-cultural, we must have the courage to say no to that which diminishes life. The Gospel is always culturally renewing – we must have a constructive yes – “to the Lord Himself, to His Gospel and His vision of life, humanity and the future” (O. Guinness)

Our question is can we raise students to live out a life of radical dissent and renewal? If we are to help our children to contend with alternative visions of the good life, we must be firmly anchored in God’s Word, having a deep understanding of who Christ is. The Bible is foundational for every generation, as it provides the interpretative framework for the faith.

Jesus claimed that He fulfilled the law and the Prophets and this is affirmed in the writings of the New Testament. Without a holistic grasp of the unfolding Gospel in the Scriptures, our knowledge of Jesus will be shallow. This will undo our discipleship and finally our grasp of the meaning of all things as *having “been created through Him and for Him.”* (Colossians 1:16)

It is essential that we who teach are wonderfully shaped by our faith in the Christ who is revealed in Scripture and through whom we journey to understand all things in relationship to the glorious Gospel of Christ.

Brian Walsh expresses well the role of the Bible in our personal lives and our educational practice.

“Biblical reflection is foundational to all the Christian life, education included. But this requires an ongoing serious, passionate and loving engagement with Scripture. And this must be an engagement that allows our reading of Scripture to be full of questions and to be patient enough not to demand answers too quickly ... What I am talking about is an indwelling of the biblical narrative in such a way as this story, with all its tensions, plot confusions and dead-ends, and in all its historical oddities, is, nevertheless our story. We find our identity as the people of God in this narrative, it shapes our character and it forms our vision.”

May God richly bless you as you listen to God’s Word and lead your students, modelling faithfulness to the living God in these cultural times.

Grace and Peace

The Team

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