**LEA Values; a framework for living**

Values provide a framework for decision making. The Lutheran Education Australia framework, *Lifelong qualities for learners* “defines the ethos of Lutheran Schools: ‘As central to their mission and ministry, Lutheran schools seek to nurture individuals who are aware of their humanity, open to the influence of the holy spirit and growing in and living according to a cohesive worldview while living in community and reflecting the characteristics of God through core values, especially love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, humility, courage, hope, quality and appreciation” (LEA Statement of Values).

This resource provides thought starters, theological underpinnings and suggestions as to how this framework can be utilised in classroom devotions and college worship and staff bible studies.

A word of note: this resource has been compiled to run across campuses – so adaptation will need to be made to make it age appropriate. Use those resources that are helpful. If you find other resources, email them to me, so that they can be made available to others for future years.

**Term 1 Week 1**

**Key Texts, Biblical Comment and Devotional Ideas:**

*Hebrews 12:1b-2a (NLT) “…let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith…”*

*2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT) “Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.”*

***The context:*** At the heart of the Christian faith is Jesus. The Christian faith is not about rules, regulations, or even obedience. It is about a person, and what that person has done for us. Both the author of Hebrews (the author is unknown) and the author of Corinthians (Paul) speak about remaining focussed on the ‘author and perfector of our faith’.

***Teaching thought:***

Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus is about finding a focus by which to live. As William Tell took aim and shot truly, so the values by which we live enable us to remain true to who we are in Christ.

Our overarching College theme this year is “Gifted by God, Giving to Others”. By combining the intent of both Hebrews 12:1a-2b and 2 Corinthians 8 we are reminds us that we are gifted by God to be a blessing to others; there is a strong servant motif in both of these letters (Hebrews and 2 Corinthians)!

In both these passages, the authors emphasise that true, effective and purposeful living can only come about through a living relationship with the one called Jesus. Thus, the Christian faith is relational rather than philosophical. How do you make sense of that? What is the difference between having a relationship with someone and living with them as a philosophical construct?

***Discuss****:*

What makes a friend a friend?

What are the things that you value in a true friend?

Consider the story of William Tell. Why was it important for William Tell to remain focussed?

Consider each of the 10 LEA Values.

Do a stocktake on how students make sense of each of these values; love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, humility, courage, hope, quality and appreciation. Write them up on a board, or print them off and have the children or young people identify ways that the values can be lived out at school.

Which of these Values are specifically relevant to the theme “Gifted by God, Giving to Others”? Why?

***Additional Resources:***

Shooting an apple off a persons head (definitely inappropriate) <http://youtu.be/h6YVPVbpHXo>

The original William Tell <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbXfq4Z8ADY> (watch first 30 seconds)

***Symbols***

Use one of the following pictures or symbols to explore what that picture might suggest about values.

 

***Inspirational Item***

Each inspirational item is an abstract item with no ‘obvious’ link to the Bible or the Christian faith – this is where the challenge begins! We challenged students and teachers to find that link, to make sense of that item and see where it has meaning in our Christian lives.



***Action/Response:***

?