

The Rock School

Discipleship Instructional Vision Statement

In our Discipleship classrooms, learners will be encouraged in their Christian formation through a variety of activities and spiritual disciplines. Becoming a Christian is not only a moment of conversion, but it is a lifetime of formation. As such, we understand that we are engaging students in “a long obedience in the same direction” (Eugene Petersen).

Discipleship is a comprehensive effort that requires us to approach an student’s faith formation holistically by providing opportunities for:

- Learning (wisdom) - engaging the head (theology)
- Longing (wonder) - engaging the heart (liturgy)
- Loving (works) - engaging the hands (justice)

To that end, Discipleship-making requires a commitment to these spiritual disciplines:

- **An Awareness of God.** Students will have opportunities through prayer, worship, contemplation, and “sitting with Jesus” to learn to sense God’s presence and to become more aware of Him at work in their lives and in those around them.
- **The Study of Christian Theology.** Students will engage in a serious study of the Christian faith by learning about church history, creeds, scriptural contexts, apologetics, cultural engagement, and sound theological doctrines. Students should be invited to wrestle with the challenging questions of faith and culture in this present age.
- **Reflection on Scripture.** Students will have regular and frequent times to read passages within our sacred text and opportunity to reflect on these readings both individually and in small group settings. Reflection on scripture is intended to be different from times of study and will instead utilize practices such as lectio divina to allow the Word of God to speak directly to the reader.
- **Application in Daily Living.** Students will consider how God may be using their awareness of His presence, their study of theology, and their reading of scripture to lead them to action in some way. Students should have opportunities to journal about how the Lord may be directing them in their personal transformation or to act in a broader context to “cooperate with God in the work of redeeming the world.”

TRS CHAPEL GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKERS

These guidelines are presented to help speakers best prepare to speak at Chapel on a Monday morning. We are very intentional in our planning and preparation for Chapel and very thoughtful in our themes, messaging, and language. Please take time to review these notes and then look at the calendar at the bottom to reserve an available date.

PRESENTATION

- We speak with joyful enthusiasm for the Gospel
- We embed our message in hopefulness
- We focus on what is right, not what is wrong
- We invite our students and staff to imagine a better way (the Jesus Way)
- We speak in plain terms, avoiding unnecessary “Christianese”
- We don’t ‘talk down’ to students, we invite them to ‘listen up’
- We remember that Monday Morning Chapel is not the same as VBS
- We use illustrations and activities for emphasis, not for entertainment
- We read from an open Bible in our hands, even if the words are on the screen

PREPARATION

- We formulate a key point and repeat it often (If they only remember one thing...)
- We thoughtfully introduce language of the Christian faith to build vocabulary
- We consider how our sermon fits within the context of the Christian metanarrative
 - Creation (how it *was*)
 - Fall (how it *is*)
 - Redemption (how it *can* be)
 - Restoration (how it *will* be)
- We preach holistically, remembering that transformation is comprised of three things:
 - Learning (wisdom) - Head (knowledge)
 - Longing (wonder) - Heart (desire)
 - Loving (works) - Hands (service)
- We follow the Christian Calendar in our Chapel preaching in order to allow students to live the story of the Bible over the course of each school year:
 - Advent (Anticipation) - Waiting
 - Christmastide (Incarnation) - With Us
 - Epiphany (Revelation) - Wide-eyed
 - Lent (Crucifixion) - With Him
 - Holy Week
 - Eastertide (Resurrection) - Wonder
 - Pentecost (Inspiration) - With Power
 - Ordinary Times (Participation) - Works
 - Christ the King Sunday
- We root our sermons in a Scripture passage, not in a topic or story.
- We use the New Living Translation (NLT) for Chapel.

WHAT TO AVOID

- We do not employ hype for hype's sake.
- We do not read from or preach from our phones. Use a podium, if needed.
- We do not make statements that support or disparage any political party or persons.
- We do not use liberal, conservative, or progressive to describe people or entities.
- We do not use the words abortion, sexuality, gender identity, or homosexuality, or make reference to these issues, even in coded or discreet terms.
- We do not introduce, provide commentary on, or attempt to address 'controversial' subjects in Chapel (war, immigration, politics, vaccinations, CRT, etc.)
- We do not use 'shock & awe' theology (making intentionally shocking or outrageous statements just to capture students' attention.)
- We do not bunny trail, make off-handed remarks, or provide a running commentary on topics/ideas that we did not prepare in advance to properly and clearly address because we do not want to create confusion for students. (Stick to the key point of your sermon.)
- We do not go past our allotted time, regardless of how good things are going. We end early or on time (9:20a).

TECHNICAL NOTES

- If you would like a presentation created for you to display notes or scriptures on screen, please e-mail them to Erica Littauer by 12pm the Friday before you speak.
- If you have a slide presentation that you created you would like displayed on screen, please email them to Erica Littauer (elittauer@trsonline.org) by 8a on Mondays.
 - Avoid using bright/light colored backgrounds in presentations as they are intensified on the screen. A black, dark grey, or other dark colored background with white text is ideal.
- If you have video content you would like included, do not embed it in a powerpoint presentation. Use a placeholder slide - "Video Here" - to indicate where it goes and email the video as a separate file to Erica. If it's on Youtube, you can send her the link and she can download it.
- Please arrive between 8:00 - 8:15a and meet Gary Lundy in the Sound Booth to get mic'd up. You can also connect with Erica to review your presentation content and make sure everything is set up correctly.
- We provide a 'clicker' for you to advance your slide content, but Erica can do it for you if you prefer.
- We have two confidence monitors on the back wall. One shows your current slide (what the students see on the big screen behind you) and the other shows your next slide.
- If you prefer a podium, please let Gary know that morning. We only have a traditional sloped podium. We do not have the flat high table as an option.

CHAPEL FORMAT

8:30a: Countdown Video

8:35a: Vision & Learner Profile Spotlight (teacher)

8:40a: Worship - 2 songs

8:54a: Apostles Creed (Jim)

8:55a: Sermon (speaker)

9:19a: Closing Prayer (speaker)

9:20a: Dismissal (Jim)

CHAPEL CALENDAR 2021 (AUGUST - DECEMBER)

DATE	SEASON	THEME	SCRIPTURE	SPEAKER
8/11	Ordinary Time	Vision (Take Aim)	Vision Statement	JM
8/16	Ordinary Time	Vision (Blindness)	Mark 10:46-52	JM
8/23	Ordinary Time	Vision (Hesed)	John 15:5-12	JM
8/30	Ordinary Time	Vision (Heart)	Matthew 5:8	HG
9/6	Ordinary Time	NO CHAPEL	LABOR DAY	NONE
9/13	Ordinary Time	Shalom (God)	Prov 9:10-11; Romans 5:1	JM
9/20	Ordinary Time	Shalom (Creation)	Psalms 19:1; Romans 1:20	JM
9/27	Ordinary Time	Shalom (Others)	Micah 6:8; John 13:34-35	JM
10/4	Ordinary Time	Shalom (Self)	Psalms 134:19; Eph 2:10	JM
10/11	Ordinary Time	Vocation (Education)	David M, Bill L.	JM
10/18	Ordinary Time	Vocation (Art & Lit)	Shelley W, Nathan W.	JM
10/25	Ordinary Time	Vocation (Environment)	Chris W, Emma B.	JM
11/1	Ordinary Time	Vocation (Social)	Nona J, Eric L, Katy B.	JM
11/8	Ordinary Time	Vocation (Research)	Duane M, Matthew M.	JM
11/15	Ordinary Time	Christ the King	Colossians 2:15-23	
11/22	End of Calendar	NO CHAPEL	THANKSGIVING BREAK	NONE
11/29	Advent	Christmas Characters		
12/6	Advent	Christmas Characters		GL
12/13	Advent	Christmas Characters		

12/20	Advent	NO CHAPEL	CHRISTMAS BREAK	NONE
12/27	Christmastide	NO CHAPEL	CHRISTMAS BREAK	NONE

CHAPEL CALENDAR 2022 (JANUARY - MAY)

DATE	SEASON	THEME	SCRIPTURE	SPEAKER
1/3	Christmastide	NO CHAPEL	CHRISTMAS BREAK	NONE
1/10	Epiphany	Epiphany!		
1/17	Epiphany	NO CHAPEL	MLK DAY	NONE
1/24	Epiphany	Rhythm (Prayer)		JM
1/31	Epiphany	Rhythm (Scripture)		JM
2/7	Epiphany	Rhythm (Sabbath)		JM
2/14	Epiphany	Rhythm (Justice)		JM
2/24	Epiphany	NO CHAPEL	PRESIDENTS DAY	NONE
2/28	Lent	Life of Christ		
3/7	Lent	Life of Christ		
3/14	Lent	Life of Christ		
3/24	Lent	NO CHAPEL	SPRING BREAK	NONE
3/28	Lent	Life of Christ		
4/4	Lent	Life of Christ		
4/11	Holy Week	Crucifixion		
4/18	Eastertide	Resurrection		
4/25	Eastertide	Resurrection		
5/2	Eastertide			
5/9	Eastertide			
5/16		Senior Chapel	DP Coordinates	DP
5/23		K Chapel	MM Coordinates	JM

TRS Bible Reading Plan 2021

This plan follows the scripture reading plan of the Daily Office.

A proven key to spiritual growth (at all levels) is reading *and reflecting* on Scripture. If we want to move others from belonging to believing to behaving, we must create time and space for scripture reading (which is different from bible study!)

Lectio Divina is an ancient practice that can be done in small groups, but teachers are welcome to adopt other formats or practices as well. The key point is that we read *and reread* short passages and then *reflect* on how God is speaking to us through His words.

Lectio Divina - for the Gospel Reading:

- One person in each group reads the passage aloud.
 - Each person responds to the question by writing down their response (1-2 mins)
 - Each person shares what they have written - no discussion (2-3 minutes)
 - Repeat for each of the three readings with a different reader each time.
 - *Optional:* read a different translation each time.
- First Reading: Listen for a word/phrase that catches your attention.
 - Second Reading: Where does this passage touch your life today?
 - Third Reading: From what I have heard & shared, what do I believe God wants me to do or be?

Lectio Divina is a great way to wrestle with the Gospel text.

The Morning Psalm is a good way to begin class (creating *Awareness*) by either reading it aloud together as a class or by having students close their eyes while the teacher reads it aloud as a prayer. (There is repetition in the Psalter reading each semester and that is intentional to build familiarity with the text.)

This schedule below is designed to align with the block scheduling of grades 6-12. So teachers should adopt either a M/W/F schedule or a T/H/F schedule. Grades K-5 are encouraged to adopt a schedule that aligns in some way and participate three days a week. I'd invite every staff member to join us in reading these Scriptures together each week!

DATE	GOSPEL READING	MORNING PSALM
9/13	Matthew 4:1-11	56
9/15	Matthew 4:18-25	72
9/17	Matthew 5:11-16	69

9/20	Matthew 5:21-26	80
9/22	Matthew 5:38-48	119:97-120
9/24	Matthew 6:7-15	88
9/27	Matthew 6:25-34	89:1-18
9/29	Mark 13:21-27	8
10/1	Matthew 8:1-17	102
10/4	Matthew 8:28-34	106:1-18
10/6	Matthew 9:9-17	119:145-176
10/11	Matthew 10:5-15	1,2
10/13	Matthew 10:24-33	119:1-24
10/15	Matthew 11:1-6	16
10/18	Luke 4:14-21	147
10/20	Matthew 12:1-14	38
10/22	Matthew 12:22-32	31
10/25	Matthew 12:43-50	41
10/27	Matthew 13:10-17	119:49-72
10/29	Matthew 13:24-30	40
11/1	John 11:32-44	24
11/3	Matthew 13:53-58	72
11/5	Matthew 14:13-21	69

11/8	Matthew 16:21-28	87
11/10	Matthew 15:1-20	80
11/12	Matthew 15:29-39	119:97-120
11/15	Matthew 18:21-35	108
11/17	Matthew 17:1-13	89:1-18
11/19	Matthew 17:22-27	101
11/29	Matthew 21:1-11	1,2
12/1	Matthew 21:23-32	119:1-24
12/3	Matthew 22:1-14	16
12/6	Matthew 22:23-33 (<i>Luke 1:5-25</i>)	25 <i>Italicized passages are an alternative for Christmas reading</i>
12/8	Matthew 23:1-12 (<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>)	38 <i>Italicized passages are an alternative for Christmas reading</i>
12/10	Matthew 23:27-39 (<i>Luke 1:39-56</i>)	31 <i>Italicized passages are an alternative for Christmas reading</i>
12/13	Matthew 24:15-31 (<i>Luke 1:57-80</i>)	41 <i>Italicized passages are an alternative for Christmas reading</i>
12/15	Matthew 24: 45-51 (<i>Luke 2:1-20</i>)	119:49-72
12/17	Matthew 25:14-30 (<i>Matthew 2:1-21</i>)	40 <i>Italicized passages are an alternative for Christmas reading</i>