

PMPT Theme (2017-2019): BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE

Melaka-Johor Diocesan Theme (2016-2020): CHURCH AS COMMUNITY OF FAMILIES

February 2017 PMPT Sub-theme --- *HOPE: Welcoming God's Gift in Humanity*

Introduction: "Hope is a gift of God. We must ask for it. It is placed deep within each human heart in order to shed light on this life, ... We need to nourish the roots of our hope so that they can bear fruit; primarily, the certainty of God's closeness and compassion, ..." (Homily of Pope Francis, 6 Nov 2016)

Opening Song: Along The Road Of Life (J.70 SYPTG)

Along the road of life I have a friend divine
Who walks with me and gently leads the way;
He gives me joy and makes the darkest night to shine
It is my Lord who won my heart today

Chorus: I do not mind the rough and winding hard way
Or mountain steep through valley dark and cold;
It is enough to know He travels by my side
Along the road that leads to streets of gold.

For many years I did not know His love so true
Until I heard how on the cross He died;
I trusted Him and He became my Saviour too
And since that day He's journeyed by my side.

DIALOGUE:

"I know for certain that God does not make mistakes but he does make miracles. I am one. You are too." This quote by Nicholas James 'Nick' Vijjic is one of many that have inspired and motivated millions around the world. One might be surprised by such hopeful words spoken by a man who at age 10 wanted to take his own life.

Australian-born Nick Vijjic wears many hats; motivational speaker, graduate, author Christian evangelist, husband, father - and he wears these hats without legs and arms. Vijjic was born with Phocomelia, a rare disorder resulting in limbs not being fully formed. His parents, Dushka and Boris never gave up on their son and encouraged him to thrive but it was his faith and self-determination that spurred him to soar; *"Just because I don't understand God's plans, does not mean that he is not with me."*

Expectedly, Dushka and Boris were overwhelmingly unprepared for their 'special' baby and were overcome with grief and fears. Their faith was badly shaken by the uncertainties of raising their son. However, once they abandoned their narrow expectations of the 'perfect' child; the very faith they once questioned became their pillar of strength. It was by the grace,

wisdom and glory of God that they nurtured their son; *“You may lack limbs, but don't let that define what you can or can't do.”*

Vijicic has come a long way from the time he saw himself as *‘having no value, a burden to his parents.’* He is able to do many things (and more) than most people – swim, fish, snowboard and surf! He has traveled to 58 countries and 3 million miles to give hope to people who are on the brink of giving up.

Sometimes the most powerful message can come in the most simple of words; *“God won't allow anything to happen in your life if it's not for your good.”* Vijicic does not deny that life comes with worries but he wants to remind us to embrace life anyway and focus on what is most important.

Nick Vijicic is a unique creation and instrument of God. One who *lives life without limits* and passes on the message of *never giving up*. Vijicic embraces his calling, responsibilities and mission with the knowledge that *“there is always someone out there who believes in you and who loves you just the way that you are.”*

Buzz with the person next to you. Buzz a second time with another person

- *Share one or two points that touched you about Nick.*
- *Share some instances of how you are a beacon of hope in your family, at work or in your neighborhood.*

DISCERNMENT

Biblical text: 2The 2:13-17

1. Ask the Holy Spirit
(for openness to be encountered and empowered by Christ ...)
2. Read the text two or three times
(or use drawings, pictures, role play, video ...)
3. Be in silence with the text
4. What words or phrases caught my attention?
5. What is the Holy Spirit saying me?

DEEDS

- a) Share in small groups (3-4 persons) on points # 4 + 5
- b) Share 2 or 3 main points with all present
- c) Facilitator guides members in deciding on ONE task to be carried out as a BEC/community.
(Note: May need to pause if it is difficult to arrive at ONE common decision).
- d) Facilitator helps the BEC/community with details of the chosen task that will bring a sense of hope to others
- e) Time of prayer

(for the needs of the persons in the BEC/community, country and the task that has been decided upon ...)

Note to facilitator:

- i) Use creative/alternative/participative ways in facilitating.
- ii) Keep in mind the theme; what transpired in the **Dialogue** and **Discernment** portion of the guide.
- iii) Keep in mind the 4E approach; **Encountered**, **Empowered**, **Enlightened**, **Evangelising**
- iv) You are free to facilitate the **3D(Dialogue, Discernment, Deeds)** process so that it is relevant and meaningful for the BEC/community gathering.

Closing Song: I Will Serve Thee (N.30 SYPTG)

I will serve Thee because I love Thee
 You have given **Life** to me
 I was nothing before You found me
 You have given **Life** to me
 Heartaches, broken people
 Ruined lives are why You died on Calv'ry
 Your touch is what I long for
 You have given **Life** to me

I will serve Thee because I love Thee
 You have given **Hope** to me
 I was nothing before You found me
 You have given **Hope** to me
 Heartaches, broken people
 Ruined lives are why You died on Calv'ry
 Your touch is what I long for
 You have given **Hope** to me