

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLING – THE KING’S SCHOOL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

THE KING’S SCHOOL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

One of the key aspects of our mission as a school is Spiritual Formation of students. What characterizes our efforts in this regard?

Firstly, it involves developing a clear understanding at the time of what Spiritual Formation is, among teachers, students and parents. For his disciples at the time when Jesus walked as God incarnate on this earth, spiritual formation meant being with him, learning to be like him. They were his students or apprentices in kingdom living. They heard what he said and observed what he did, and then, under his direction, they simply began to do and say the same things. **Imperfectly, yes, but progressively.**

Today, we want the same thing to take place. Jesus the resurrected Lord still walks throughout the world through the Holy Spirit and he invites us to walk with him. ‘Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls’ (Matt 11:29). We teach our student that taking Jesus’ yoke means joining him in his work, making our work his work. It means learning to rely on him to show us how to live while he pours his life into us.

Secondly, we teach our students that the goal of Spiritual Formation is not preparation for some special religious activity but it is learning to live moment-by-moment from the reality of God’s Kingdom. We want to teach our children to translate the reading and understanding of God’s Word into a moment-by-moment practical outworking of this knowledge. The outcome will be that we are increasingly able to do all things, speaking or acting, as if Christ were doing them (Col 3:17). Spiritual Formation is learning to live my actual life as Jesus would if he were me.

Thirdly, whether our students become lawyers, architects, cashiers, CEO’s or bank managers, they must know that they are just as much in ‘full-time’ Christian service as a pastor or missionary. Jesus stands beside me and teaches me in all I do to live in God’s world. As I grow as his disciple, I am increasingly able to find the reality of God’s world everywhere I may be and my life becomes a constant testimony of his abiding presence.

Students should be led into an understanding that serving in the area of their calling in a corporate world can be integrated into the Kingdom of God as much as someone attempting to win another to Christ or preparing a sermon. Unless we succeed in this, graduates will miss Jesus’ connection between life and God and will automatically exclude most of their everyday lives from the domain of faith and discipleship.

Lastly, we are a discipleship school and this relates to our Spiritual Formation philosophy. In Matt 11:29, the 'learning from him' is meant to occur under the oversight of his people. We view our teachers as commissioned to make disciples, to surround them with the reality of God's kingdom, and to teach them to do 'everything I have commanded you' (Matt 28:20). The disciples we make are his disciples, not ours. We are his apprentices along with our students and we can only echo Paul when he says 'Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.' (1 Cor 11:1)

In summary, then, The King's School espouses a programme of Spiritual Formation of students which:

- Promotes a progressive, incremental growth in 'Christ-likeness'.
- Encourages the evaluation of our moment-by-moment existence against the life and teachings of Christ,
- Sets a goal of living and thinking 'Christianly' in every profession or activity, and
- Bears fruit in students under the mentorship of mature Christ-followers, their teachers.

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