**[ 1 ] WEEK ONE - THREAD: Achievement motivation**

DA 21 Young person is motivated to do well in school.

*63% of youth surveyed by Search Institute in the USA have this have this thread of 'ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION' in their lives. [JUNIOR COLLEGE WORDING: Children are motivated to do well in school and other activities.]*

**KEY TEXT**: Philippians 4:8-9 “What is excellent?”

**BIBLE TEXT:**

*Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

**TEACHING FOR TEACHERS:**

What are the activities that I focus my life on? St Paul goes straight to the heart of the matter with a list of “good stuff” to be busy with. This list is a summary of “godly” things that can be exposed to the light of, and cherished by everyone because it is a list of things that do good for all people. St Paul even suggests that he will HIMSELF walk that talk and walk the walk, rather than just talking about “good things” when he says: follow what I do. The outcome of being motivated by higher causes, is the certainty that you are working for the things of God – out of which comes God’s “peace”. This is not peace that is the absence of strife, but a healthy wholeness in God’s care – the Hebrew word for this kind of peace is SHALOM. The key image in this message, is for young people to be motivated by the quest for goodness in life.

**THREAD DISCUSS**

This thread is woven within the heart. Unlike many other threads, this one is strong within many young people. Young people need to be guided on the "inward journey" to think through what motivates them, and inspires them. In a school setting, we can encourage young people to look at their own commitment to learning and to make that a lifelong commitment. With this motivation, young people can set out to find ways to succeed and do well in school.

In developing the desire to succeed, and to do well, and to be motivated to achieve, young people can find themselves improving, with refreshed attitudes towards themselves and others, and overall better outcomes academically. Even their attitude towards their school community can grow stronger and more healthy. This may even impact on their physical and mental well-being.

**ACTIVITIES**

\* Students draw a timeline of their journey through school. List an equal number of moments of achievement and of failure. Talk about the highs and lows of this journey

\* Invite an older person to your group (maybe a fellow teacher) who has continued to do study after graduating from Uni or College. Explore what it means to be a life-long learner. Find out what motivates the person.

\* Study the four pillars of PLC's learning model. How does each pillar motivate students to grow?

\* Organise a "show and tell" of activities that each person is involved in, outside of school tasks. Discuss what motivates each person to do their particular activity.

\* Discuss strategies to talk about REPORT CARDS with parents. How can a student show his/her parents the core points of "achievement" in a report card?

\* Put up motivational sayings. Get group members to pick the best and make posters of them.

Place a box in the centre of the room. Each person thinks about one good thing that motivates them - writes that item on a card, then places it on the box. Keep the box in the room - and refer to it sometimes.

**PRAYING:**

*An example of a prayer for this week:*

Dear God, motivate us.

Give us passion to reach ever higher;

to work towards new challenges;

to achieve good results

and to bless others with the good things,

that you have given to us.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

*These two weeks we could pray for:*

People who are inspiring - that God would give them courage;

quiet times to listen to our own hearts;

passion to use what we have, to help others;

that we would be ready to encourage our leaders;

ask God to bless our teachers;

help for times when we feel empty.