HOPE



'MAY THE GOD OF HOPE
FILL YOU WITH
JOY AND PEACE.'

ROMANS 15.13

Hope

At SSSJ, we have high hopes and aspirations for our future, our school and community. Hope generates energy and sustains people through difficult times. We also understand that faith gives us hope for both now and for the future, and that this hope brings confidence. Hope for us means that there is always a future whatever situation we are in, because God promised to never leave us, to always love us, and to help us in times of need.

What makes 'hope' a distinctively Christian value?

The Christian understanding of hope illustrates how trivial our everyday use of the word can be. We hope that it will not rain for the picnic, or that the car will start or that the plumber will come tomorrow. However, Christians believe that: God has our best interests at heart; God will never leave us; God will provide for us when we are in need; God knows us and God promises us of a better life to come. When we are in our darkest time, God is there, and will help us. Hope is seen as an essential component of spiritual growth and wellbeing. We are often reminded that God has a specific plan and purpose for each of our lives, and that His plans are always good and full of hope. It encourages us to trust in God and His love, even when we may not understand what is happening in our lives. We see hope shown in the Christian narrative in many ways. The resurrection gives us hope for eternal life. The gospel stories tell of hope, for example the woman who touched Jesus' robe ("If I just touch his clothes I will be healed."). The rainbow after the flood is a sign that God will be true to his covenant promise.

Scripture

The parable of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11– 32) Jesus shares the parable with his disciples, the Pharisees and others. In the story, a father has two sons. The younger son asks for his portion of inheritance from his father, who grants his son's request. This son, however, is prodigal, thus squandering his fortune and eventually becoming destitute. As consequence, he must now return home empty-handed and intends to beg his father to accept him back as a servant. To the son's surprise, he is not scorned by his father but is welcomed back with celebration and a welcoming party. Envious, the older son refuses to participate in the festivities. The father tells the older son: "you are ever with me, and all that I have is yours, but thy younger brother was lost and now he is found." In the parable, the father (who represents God) never gives up on his wayward son. He is always watching and waiting for him to return. Jesus is teaching that in God's eyes everyone counts as worthy of forgiveness. No matter how challenging life becomes there is always hope and the possibility of a fresh start.