



Teaching *for*
TRANSFORMATION

The Parable Project

8th Grade Bible

Chris Hemphill

Grace Community School





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Deep Hope:

Our deep hope is that we would be
disciples of the Rabbi and rabbis to the disciples.



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OUR DEEP HOPE IS THAT WE WOULD BE
DISCIPLES OF THE RABBI AND
RABBIS TO THE DISCIPLES.

I can better represent God
by understanding His
heart + character.





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Essential Learning Targets:

- I can better represent God by understanding His heart and character.
- I can help others relate to God by communicating His heart and character in an engaging and effective way.



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Curricular Outcomes:

Bible Knowledge - being familiar with different texts of the Bible and how to interpret them

- (e.g. parables in Gospels)

Gospel - being able to identify and articulate clearly the content of the gospel message

- (Creation/Fall/Redemption/Restoration)

Rhetoric - the ability to tailor a message to the specifics of an audience so it will be well-received

- (e.g. engaging + effective)



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Habits of Learning:

Courageous Designing -

- Artistic = struggle to form idea
- Artistic = critique and revision
- Specific parameters for art (audience)

Joy-filled Collaborating -

- Working in groups
- Working on artistic project
- Opportunities for compromise and sacrifice





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See God's Story:

Redemption & Restoration -

- God desires that all would be redeemed & restored
- God provided a way for that to happen
- God invites/empowers us to be a part of the process through sharing His Gospel message with others. Through this FLEx, my students saw themselves doing this in His Story.

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things you heard from me . . . entrust these to faithful people, who will be able to teach others also.”



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Throughlines:

Throughline #1: Image Reflector

- To have compassion for the people around us
- To understand those people
- Take steps to reach out to those people

Throughline #2: Shalom Maker

- The Gospel message brings peace (to us and through us)
- How I work can bring/steal peace?





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Formational Learning Experience:

Real Needs:

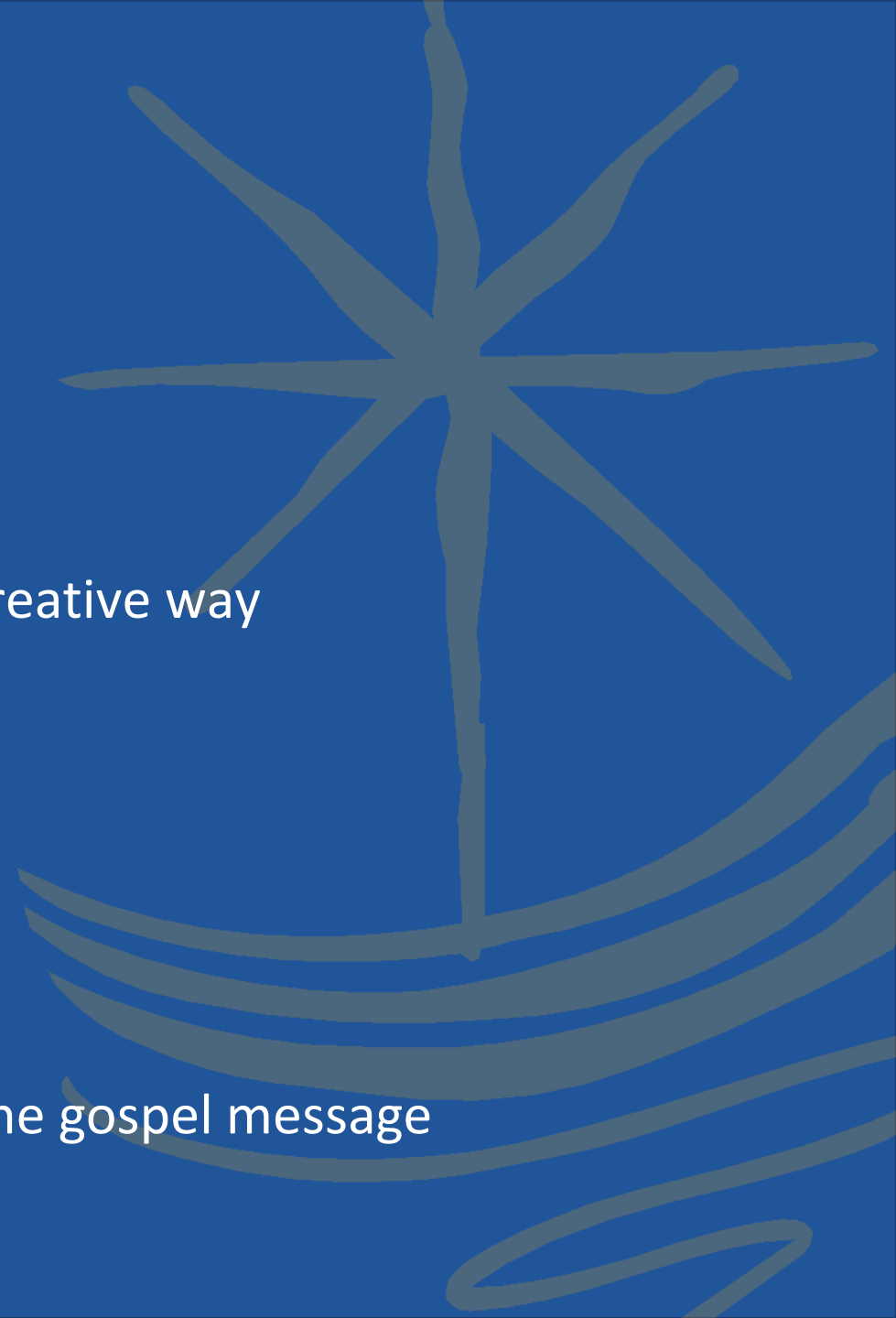
- For people to hear the gospel in an engaging and creative way

Real People:

- People near to where you live, work, and play

Real Work:

- Create an engaging and creative parable to share the gospel message





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The Parable Project:

- Write a parable that teaches an attribute of God
 - Use Creation/Fall/Redemption/Restoration as structure
- Create a picture that represents the parable
 - Capture/create the main moment

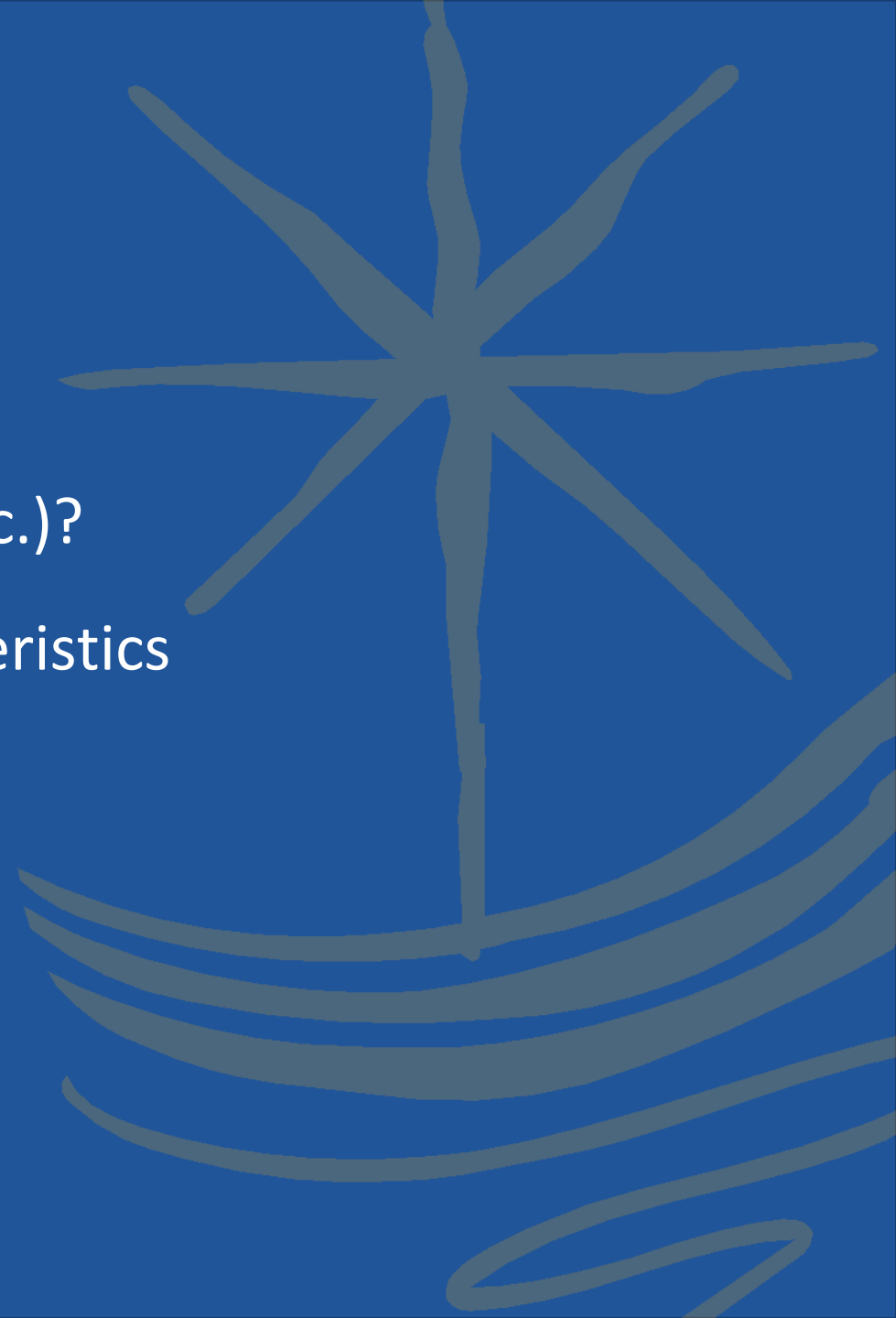




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INVITE

- What is a parable (vs. a fairy tale, story, etc.)?
- Look at parables in Gospels to get characteristics
 - Flow, Amount of detail, Beginnings/Endings
- What are the different parts of a story?
 - Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration
 - Used favorite movies to examine/compare
- What makes a story engaging + relatable?



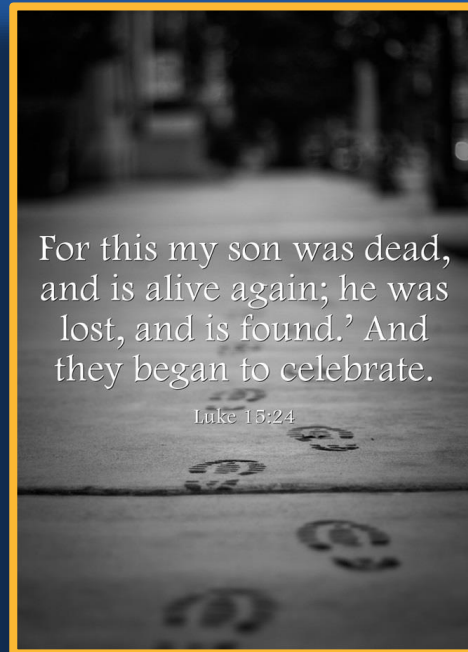


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INVITE

We looked at not only the text of parables, but also how artists represented the heart of the parable.

Parable of Prodigal Son



Return of Prodigal Son (Rembrandt)





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INVITE

An essential learning
target for this unit



OUR DEEP HOPE IS THAT WE WOULD BE
DISCIPLES OF THE RABBI AND
RABBIS TO THE DISCIPLES.

I CAN HELP OTHERS KNOW GOD
BY COMMUNICATING HIS HEART + CHARACTER
IN AN ENGAGING + EFFECTIVE WAY.

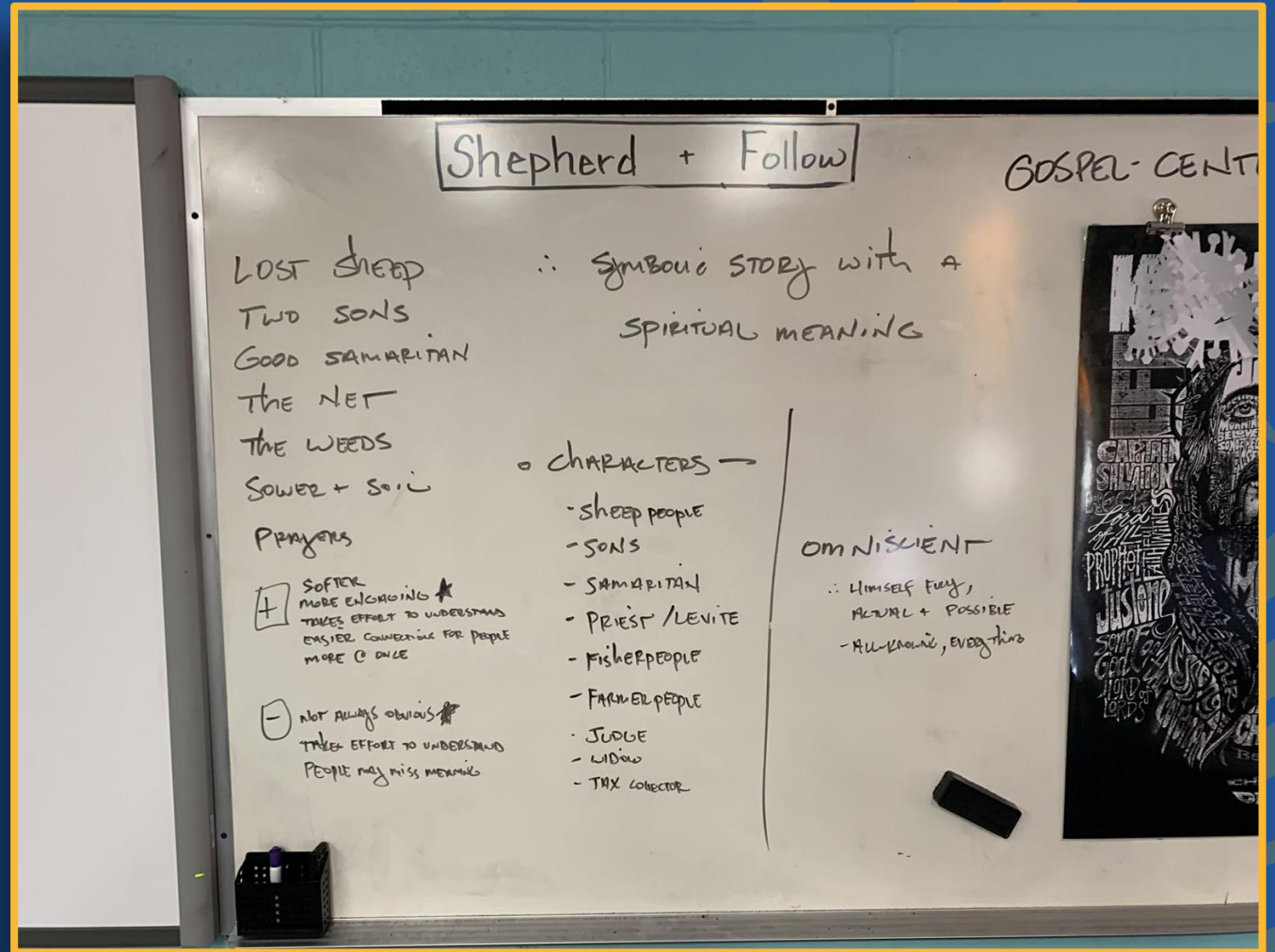


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NURTURE

I assisted students in brainstorming their parable.

They worked as a whole class to write their parable. We worked on communication and teamwork skills throughout the process.





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The Artist and Her Friend

The Lord is like an artist who can create anything and it will come to life. One day an artist found a sketchbook and drew a forest just the way she wanted it. The artist fell asleep and then woke up in her creation. It was an artist and her sketchbook alone in a beautiful forest. She saw everything she drew. Days go by and the girl becomes lonely. She picks up the pencil and draws a friend who looks like her, holding an art kit. The artist called her "Cecilia". Cecilia and her creator were very similar, but Cecilia was always jealous of how her friend, the artist, could draw anything and it would come to life because her drawings couldn't come to life. She relied on her friend, the artist, for everything. Cecilia wanted to be independent, so she tried once again to make her drawing come to life, but it failed.

Frustrated, Cecilia picks up the eraser and angrily starts to erase the animals she had created. The thing about the eraser was, the artist had said she could do whatever she wanted as long as she didn't pick up the eraser and use it, no matter what. She was so mad that she didn't care about what the artist had said, so she picked up the eraser and started erasing. Suddenly, the colors started to fade from the world around her. Too late, the girl realized her mistake and what she had done. The girl looked at the pencil and eraser in her hand, disgusted and scared, she dropped them from her hands. The girl realized that the artist would soon discover her mistake. Panicking, the girl tried to think of what she was going to say when the artist found out. What the girl didn't know was that the artist had been watching the whole time and had seen everything.

The artist called "Cecilia! Where are you?" even though the artist knew exactly where she was. Cecilia remained silent, so the artist approached her. The artist looked at the ground and saw the eraser. Cecilia stared in silence ashamed at what she had done. With forgiving eyes, the artist got her own pencil and started repairing the bleak forest. Cecilia watched the artist revive the damage that she had caused to the forest.

Once the forest was restored to its former beauty, the artist gently handed the pencil back to Cecilia saying "Go and create once more."

1st Draft

Kai and His Sensei

There once was an orphaned boy named Kai. He was sent to Tokyo to live with his grandfather. Kai's grandfather taught him karate because he was a former karate champion.

After months of training and winning tournaments, Kai arrived at the National Championship Tournament in Japan. After checking in, he began his warm-up and did a few practice rounds with his Sensei. Before the final fight, Sensei tells Kai "Don't give up! Fight Hard!" The first round is won without difficulty and the second was won but with more difficulty. The third round his opponent does an illegal kick to the knee injuring his knee. Limping off the fighting mat, he makes his way to the infirmary with his sensei.

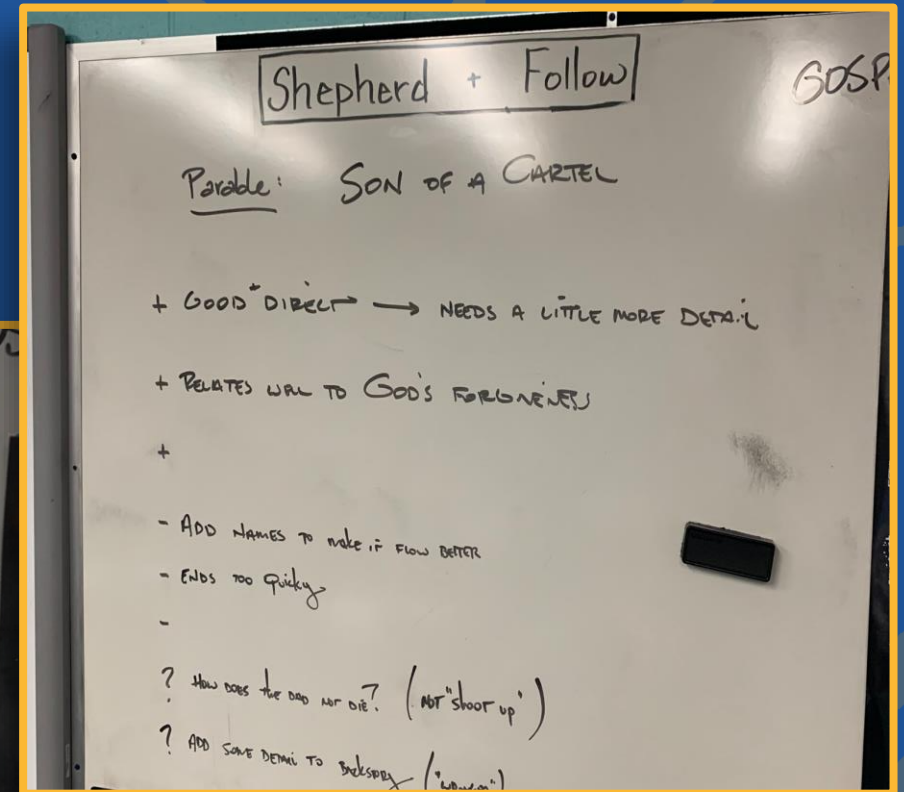
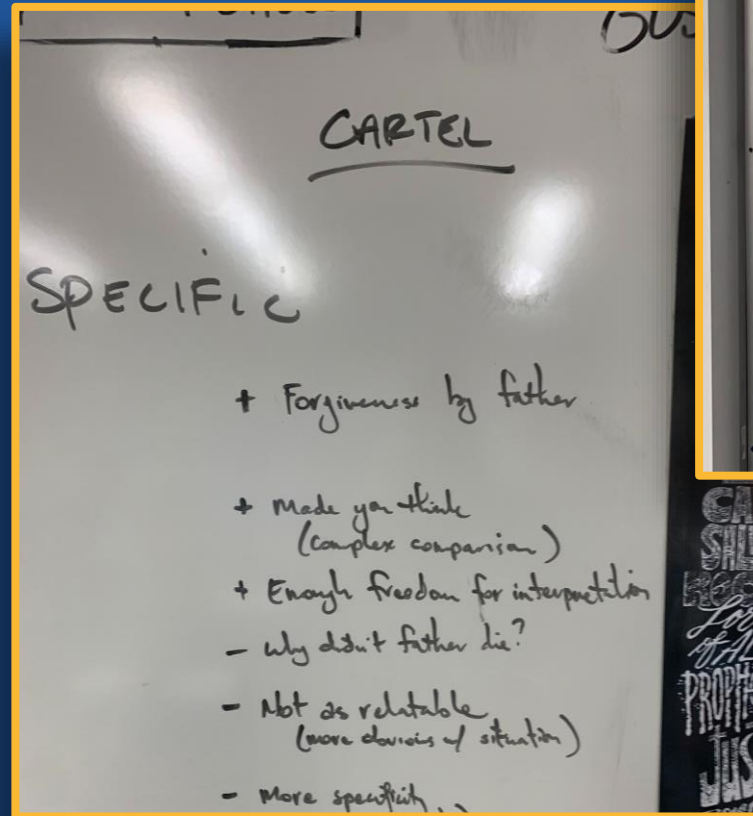
After he was injured he went to the doctor. Once his injury was confirmed as a serious knee injury, the doctor advised him not to fight. After this Kai and his Sensei spoke about the situation. The Sensei used an unfamiliar practice and healed Kai. The Sensei advises him to be careful but try his hardest. After being healed by the Sensei, Kai limps back into the arena to face his opponent. The match begins and Kai jumps into the fight with renewed passion. After being illegally hit multiple times Kai uses his anger to turn the tide. Overcoming his injury he successfully strikes a kick to the face and defeats his opponent. Winning the national championship he gains the respect of all the nation. When the fighting is over, his Sensei congratulates him. In years to come, Kai will continue to train under his kind master, and will always respect and thank him for his kind action.



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NURTURE

Each of my Bible classes gave feedback to the other classes. They learned how to give kind and specific feedback.





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NURTURE

Feedback:

- **Kind**
 - Have to tell the truth
 - Be “receivable”
- **Specific**
 - Detailed critique/praise
 - Offer examples of changes

PARABLE Son of a Cartel

** I love how its Shortened &
gets to the main point.

** I love How it is like a Perfected
example of How the Father
Forgives

WISH that it was more
Detailed



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THE ARTIST AND HER FRIEND

THERE ONCE WAS A GIRL WITH A MAGICAL SKETCHBOOK. SHE DRAWS A FOREST JUST THE WAY SHE WANTS IT, PERFECTLY. AFTER DRAWING FOR HOURS, SHE FALLS ASLEEP. WAKING UP, SHE SEES EVERYTHING IN HER CREATION. DAYS GO BY AND THE GIRL DECIDES SHE WANTS TO SHARE IT WITH SOMEONE ELSE. SHE PICKS UP THE PENCIL AND DRAWS A FRIEND WHO LOOKS LIKE HER, HOLDING AN ART KIT. THE ARTIST CALLS HER "CECILIA". CECILIA AND HER CREATOR ARE VERY SIMILAR, BUT CECILIA IS ALWAYS JEALOUS OF HOW THE ARTIST CAN DRAW ANYTHING AND IT WILL COME TO LIFE BUT CECILIA'S DRAWINGS CAN'T COME TO LIFE. ANYTIME CECILIA TRIES TO MAKE HER DRAWING COME TO LIFE, SHE FAILS.

CECILIA SEES HER FRIEND'S ERASER WHICH IS FORBIDDEN FROM HER. SHE IS TEMPTED, PICKS IT UP AND ANGRILY STARTS ERASING THE THINGS HER CREATOR HAS MADE. TOO LATE, THE GIRL REALIZES HER MISTAKE AND THAT THE ARTIST WILL SOON DISCOVER WHAT SHE HAS DONE. WHAT THE GIRL DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT THE ARTIST HAS BEEN WATCHING THE WHOLE TIME AND HAS SEEN EVERYTHING.

THE ARTIST APPROACHES HER, LOOKING AT THE GROUND AND SEES THE ERASER. CECILIA ASKS HER FRIEND TO FORGIVE HER AND REPENTS FOR WHAT SHE HAS DONE. THE ARTIST FORGIVES HER AND BESTOWS MERCY UPON HER. SHE BEGINS TO RECREATE WHAT CECILIA HAS DESTROYED. SLOWLY COLOR BEGINS TO RETURN TO THE FOREST. ONCE THE FOREST IS RESTORED TO ITS FORMER BEAUTY, THE ARTIST GENTLY HANDS THE PENCIL BACK TO CECILIA AND SAYS, "GO AND CREATE ONCE MORE."

2nd Draft

KAI AND HIS SENSEI

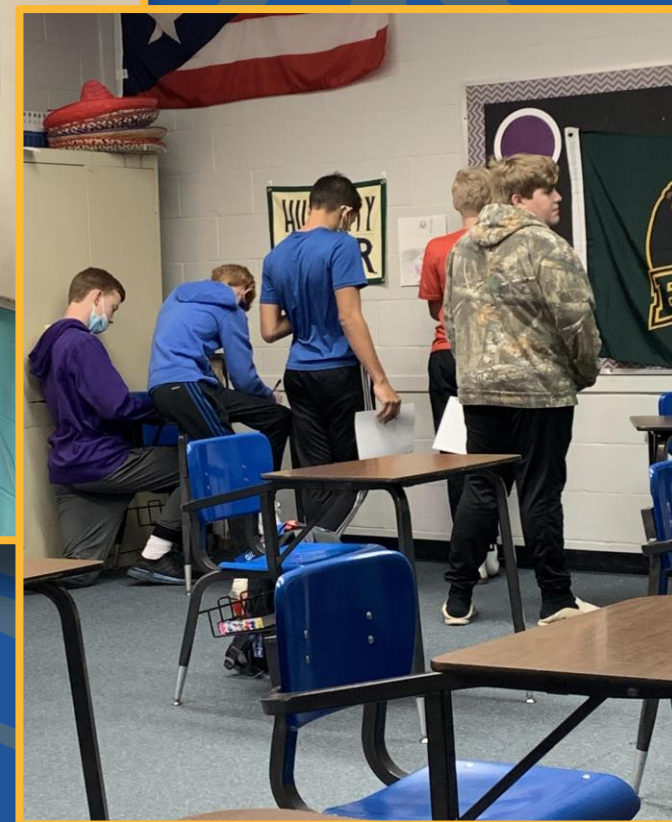
THERE ONCE WAS AN ORPHANED BOY NAMED KAI, WHOSE PARENTS DIED IN A CAR CRASH. HE WAS SENT TO TOKYO TO LIVE WITH HIS GRANDFATHER. KAI'S GRANDFATHER TAUGHT HIM KARATE BECAUSE HE WAS A FORMER KARATE CHAMPION.

AFTER MONTHS OF TRAINING AND WINNING TOURNAMENTS, KAI ARRIVED AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT IN JAPAN. ONCE HE CHECKED IN, HE BEGAN HIS WARM-UP AND COMPETED IN A FEW MATCHES AGAINST HIS OPPONENTS. BEFORE THE FINAL FIGHT, SENSEI TELLS KAI "I BELIEVE IN YOU! FIGHT HARD!" THE FIRST MATCH WAS WON WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND THE SECOND WAS WON BUT WITH MORE DIFFICULTY. THE THIRD MATCH HIS OPPONENT DOES AN ILLEGAL KICK TO THE KNEE INJURING HIS KNEE. LIMPING OFF THE FIGHTING MAT, HE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE INFIRMARY WITH HIS SENSEI.

ONCE HIS INJURY WAS CONFIRMED AS A SPRAINED KNEE INJURY, THE DOCTOR ADVISED HIM NOT TO FIGHT. AFTER THIS KAI AND HIS SENSEI SPOKE ABOUT THE SITUATION. THE SENSEI USED AN UNFAMILIAR PRACTICE AND HEALED KAI. THE SENSEI ADVISES HIM TO BE CAREFUL BUT TRY HIS HARDEST. AFTER BEING HEALED BY THE SENSEI, KAI LIMPS BACK INTO THE ARENA TO FACE HIS OPPONENT. THE MATCH BEGINS AND KAI CONTINUES TO FIGHT WITH PASSION. AFTER BEING ILLEGALLY HIT MULTIPLE TIMES KAI USES HIS ANGER TO TURN THE TIDE. ALTHOUGH HE WAS STILL MOTIVATED HIS EFFORTS WERE NOT ENOUGH DUE TO HIS INJURY. EVEN THOUGH HE LOST THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HE GAINS THE RESPECT OF ALL THE NATION. WHEN THE FIGHTING IS OVER, HIS SENSEI CONGRATULATES HIM. IN YEARS TO COME, KAI WILL CONTINUE TO TRAIN UNDER HIS KIND MASTER, AND WILL ALWAYS RESPECT AND THANK HIM FOR HIS KIND ACTION.

EMPOWER

Students were totally in charge of designing and critiquing the parables.





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Student Reflections: Questions Asked

- What did your group do well in communicating with each other?
- What was the hardest part of the activity for you?
- How could you have been a better follower?
- How could you have been a better leader?
- What was your biggest moment of learning/impact?



Student Reflections: Responses

- The most profound responses came to the questions “How could I have been a better shepherd?” and “How could I have been a better follower?”
- There were a lot of responses that related to listening to the people around them and not just trying to talk over them or shout them down. As a leader, they should seek out the opinions of others, listen to those opinions, and make a place for everyone in the group to have a voice. They talked also about being willing to listen to what others were saying and being willing to do what someone else wanted to do not just what they wanted, sacrificing their own desires for the group in order to follow someone else's.



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Teacher Reflections:

- Debriefing with students at different points was important
 - To deal with conflict (e.g. want to separate from group)
 - To draw out/emphasize certain conclusions
 - Use questions to make points
- Vital to give students freedom to struggle/fail
- “Real Work” is really important
 - They have to see/feel it actually means something
 - “Outside audience”



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Additional Information to tell the story:

- One parable was used in teaching Elementary Chapel
 - Next year: students will present in younger chapels
- Feedback & revision were very helpful in shepherding
 - Students more impacted by peer feedback (positive and negative)
 - Teacher helped guide students when stuck





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