

Week One

Dreaming for the Future

Read

As you start school this year, you will spend many days catching up and reminiscing with old friends. But I also want you to spend some time dreaming. Dreams are important. Not the type of dreams that happen while you are sleeping, rather the dreams you have for your future. Our culture is surrounded with dreams. We hear about the “American Dream.” Or, advertisers promise a dream life if we buy their product. Or, our popular music is full of songs of dreams. In *Les Miserables*, Fantine sings about a dream of life worth living, a song of hope from her current situation. A 2015 Coldplay song says, “You can see the change you want to. Be what you want to be. When you get a head, a head full of dreams.” The Avett Brothers put it another way in their song *Head Full of Doubt/Road Full of Promise*.

*There was a dream and one day I could see it
Like a bird in a cage I broke in and demanded that somebody free it
And there was a kid with a head full of doubt
So I'll scream til I die and the last of those bad thoughts are finally out*

Our culture is not alone in being dreamer friendly. We can find a story full of dreamers in the biblical narrative. The prophets were great dreamers. Below is a passage from Isaiah. Usually read around Advent and Christmas, this passage is a dream of a better world.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

— Isaiah 11:1-9

Day 1: Day Before School Begins

Journal and Reflect

What are your expectations of the new school year? What will be difficult for you in the new year? Who are you most excited to see? Who do you hope not to see?

What subjects are classes are you worried about? Do you hope to join any clubs, sports or after-school groups?

Pray

Pray for the new start to school tomorrow and you will be open to new opportunities.