

## Jesus Our Compass – Showing Us the Way

Dear Prep Families,

This week in chapel we continued our journey through the season of Lent, a time in the Christian calendar that invites us to slow down, reflect on our lives, and intentionally turn our hearts toward God.

Our reading came from John 14:6, where Jesus says:

*“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Over the past few weeks the boys have been reflecting on important questions about character, attention, and the choices we make each day.

At the beginning of Lent we spoke about the image of a backpack. Just as a backpack carries the things we need for a journey, we asked the boys to think about what they carry in their hearts. The message was simple but important: God should be the most important thing we carry with us in life.

Last week we explored the question: **“What has your attention?”** We discussed how the things that capture our attention, screens, achievements, friendships, competition, or even small distractions can slowly begin to shape our hearts and influence the kind of people we are becoming.

This week we continued the journey by asking another important question:

### **How do we know we are going the right way in life?**

To help illustrate this, I brought a compass to chapel.

Many of the boys have experienced hiking in Cape Town perhaps on Table Mountain, Lion’s Head, or along the beautiful mountain paths around our city. When people hike in the mountains, they sometimes lose the path or become unsure of the direction they are heading. In those moments, a compass becomes incredibly helpful. It provides a steady reference point and helps hikers find the right direction again.

Importantly, if you realise you are heading the wrong way, you do not throw the compass away. Instead, you pause, look again, and allow it to guide you back onto the right path.

### **In the same way, Jesus is like a compass for our lives.**

In the Gospel reading, Jesus does not say, **“I know the way,”** or **“I can give you directions.”** Instead, He says something much more profound: **“I am the way.”**

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This means that Jesus does not simply provide instructions for life, His life itself shows us the way to live.

1. Jesus shows us how to treat others with kindness and dignity.
2. Jesus shows us how to forgive when we have been hurt.
3. Jesus shows us how to stand for truth and courage.
4. And most importantly, Jesus shows us the way to God.

For the boys, this message connects directly to the everyday moments they experience at school. During a typical school day they are faced with many small but important decisions:

1. How do I respond when someone frustrates me?
2. Do I include someone who feels left out?

3. Do I speak honestly even when it is difficult?
4. Do I choose humility rather than showing off?

In those moments we encouraged the boys to pause and ask themselves a simple but powerful question:

***“Which way would Jesus point?”***

Just like a compass helps someone find direction on a mountain path, Jesus helps guide our hearts and decisions in everyday life.

Lent reminds us that life itself is a journey. Journeys require direction, patience, and the willingness to correct our course when we drift.

For young boys who are still learning to navigate friendships, competition, success, disappointment, and identity, this guidance is incredibly important. Our hope is that they begin to develop the habit of pausing, reflecting, and choosing a path that reflects kindness, integrity, humility, and courage.

### **Supporting This Journey at Home**

Parents play an essential role in helping children develop this kind of moral and spiritual compass. One of the most powerful ways this happens is through simple conversations at home.

You might consider asking your son a few gentle questions during the week:

1. What choices did you make today that you felt good about?
2. Was there a moment when you had to stop and think about the right thing to do?
3. How do you think Jesus would want us to treat people in that situation?

These small conversations help boys begin to connect the lessons they hear in chapel with the real-life decisions they face each day.

Another helpful practice is to encourage short moments of reflection or prayer, particularly during this season of Lent. Even a simple prayer such as:

***“Lord Jesus, help me choose the right way today.”*** can help children develop an awareness that God walks with them through their daily experiences.

### **A Shared Journey**

At school we are deeply committed to supporting the growth of the whole child academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Chapel provides a space where boys can pause, reflect, and be reminded that their character and values matter deeply.

As we continue through this season of Lent, our hope is that the boys will increasingly learn to recognise the voice of Christ guiding their lives like a compass that gently but faithfully points them toward truth, goodness, and love.

Thank you for partnering with us in this important journey of formation.

Warm blessings,

The Revd. Khwezi Bengani