

Suggested prayer format (15-20 minutes)

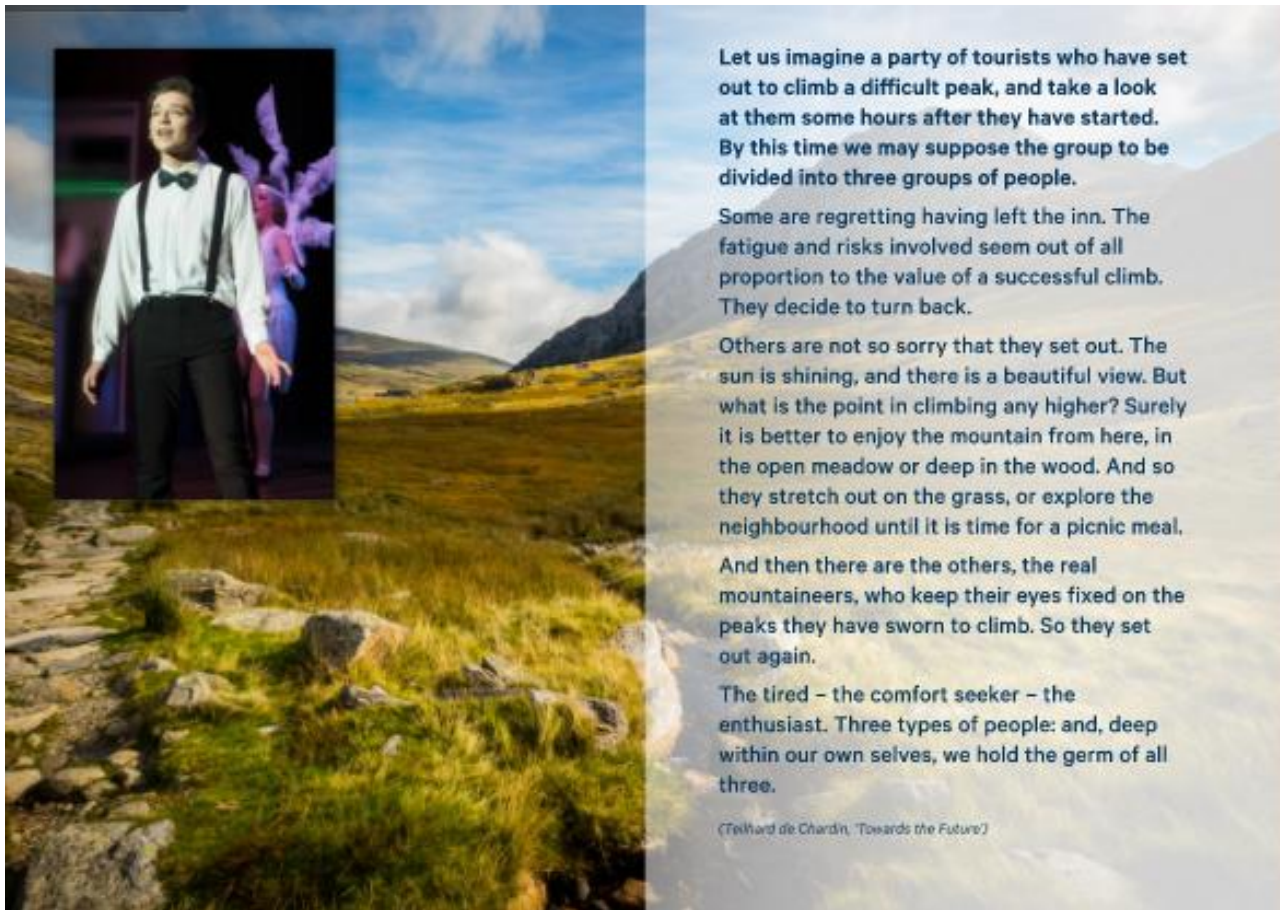
1. access the 'Hope' Resource (<http://www.kildareministries.org.au/hope2.html>) via personal device, or if possible on the screen at the meeting
2. turn to recommended slide
3. either one person read for group, or group read in silence
4. encourage group members to respond to reflection material – questions provided to assist
5. final prayer to close

Hope: Bringing a Sense of Purpose

Refer to Slide 2 of the Hope Resource:



click on the box 'Hope, integrally human'



Let us imagine a party of tourists who have set out to climb a difficult peak, and take a look at them some hours after they have started. By this time we may suppose the group to be divided into three groups of people.

Some are regretting having left the inn. The fatigue and risks involved seem out of all proportion to the value of a successful climb. They decide to turn back.

Others are not so sorry that they set out. The sun is shining, and there is a beautiful view. But what is the point in climbing any higher? Surely it is better to enjoy the mountain from here, in the open meadow or deep in the wood. And so they stretch out on the grass, or explore the neighbourhood until it is time for a picnic meal.

And then there are the others, the real mountaineers, who keep their eyes fixed on the peaks they have sworn to climb. So they set out again.

The tired – the comfort seeker – the enthusiast. Three types of people: and, deep within our own selves, we hold the germ of all three.

(Teilhard de Chardin, 'Towards the Future')

Questions for reflection:

- halfway through Term 1, am I the tired, the comfort seeker or the enthusiast?
- what risks or blockers are preventing me from climbing further?
- what views am I enjoying?
- what peaks are drawing me further forward?
- what is my greatest sense of hope at this stage of the year?

Rough Translations

A reading for Lent:

"Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' (Romans 4.18)

Hope nonetheless.

Hope despite.

Hope regardless.

Hope still.

Hope where we had ceased to hope.

Hope amid what threatens hope.

Hope with those who feed our hope.

Hope beyond what we had hoped.

Hope that draws us past our limits.

Hope that defies expectations.

Hope that questions what we have known.

Hope that makes a way where there is none.

Hope that takes us past our fear.

Hope that calls us into life.

Hope that holds us beyond death.

Hope that blesses those to come.

—Jan Richardson

