Courage - Discussion Starters

Any attitude can be reinforced by working with the image that you attach to it. Recall the image and you resurrect the feeling. Here is an exercise based on an image of hope and courage. Try this or adapt the format to your own images of hope and courage.

- Close your eyes. Breathe out one time. See yourself in a long tunnel with nothing but darkness behind and ahead of you. Moving forward, see a dot of light in the distance, which is getting larger the closer you move toward it. Walk out of the tunnel through the light. Then open your eyes.

- **Reflection on Courage:**
  This month we celebrate one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, courage. We think of the courage it takes for students to reach beyond their comfort zones to learn in ways they have never done before. We think of the courage students and adults need to do the right thing even though they might risk unpopularity. We think of the courage it takes from teachers, administrators, parents and all workers in education to carry the responsibility of passing on our faith and hope to the young entrusted to our care.

  Share the story of an experience of courage, one that allowed you to feel like a different person.

  How do we speak up and stand as Catholics of integrity to help make a difference?
  How can we use the Internet to promote Catholic values?

  Describe how with the help of your faith, courage and sense of hope, that you were able to turn a difficult time into something positive for yourself and for others.

**The Labourers in the Vineyard**

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said
to him, 'Because no one has hired us. 'He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20: 1-16

➢ Describe a time when the values of your faith conflicted with the dominant values of the culture? How did you show courage?
➢ How did others respond to the manner in which you addressed the situation?
➢ What do school communities “grumble” about? In what respects were their faith responses to such situations?