

## April 15<sup>th</sup> Morning Message

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11

Welcome back to a new year of school. My name is Ms. Ryan, I was a science teacher in America, but I did not always want to be a teacher.

Life can be very confusing, especially as a student. There are so many things to think about. What do I study? What am I good at? Why am I here? When I was a student, I did not know what I wanted to do with my life. I thought of many things but, I never thought of being a teacher. But, I have recently found purpose in being in Japan as your new missionary English teacher.

Some of you as 3<sup>rd</sup> year Junior High and 3<sup>rd</sup> year High School students may also be asking yourselves what ‘should I do with my life after this year?’ What should I study in High school? Should I find a job? What college should I go to?

Everyone asks the question, “What is the purpose of my life?” Some of you may be thinking of what career you want to do, such as a doctor, athlete, or teacher. All are good jobs with great meaning but, for many it becomes their identity. Who they are is what they do.

For others, who they are is what they have. Maybe you have said, ‘I have to have that shirt’, or ‘the new iPhone is coming out, I have to buy it’. Some rely on sports, movies, or friends for purpose. All of that brings great joy in life, which is very important.

But really, our purpose should be to love God and one another. School is a time to find out what you are good at and how you can use your talents to help others. But to find purpose in life we must trust in the love of God. When we do that, then you will know your purpose and everything else will fall into place.

Let us pray,

Dear Father, help us to have trust in You and Your love for us. Guide us to find Your purpose for us in this new school year. In Your name we pray. Amen.