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Hasn't the moon been beautiful at night the past few days? It has been so round and full, lighting up the night sky. Young children love to find the moon at night, and you may have read **Goodnight Moon** when you were little. When my Audrey was small, she loved it when the moon looked like it had a chunk bitten out of it. She called it Mr. Cookie Moon. And how about the little story about the rabbits? Remember **Guess How Much I Love You?** The answer to that question is, "I love you to the moon and back."

We are fascinated with the moon – moon exploration, moon dust, moon rocks. How many of you like space and to learn about what is out there? We have learned a lot about the moon, and scientists are still studying.

For me, one of the interesting things about the moon is that it shines, not from its own light, but from that of the sun. We have the phases of the moon, Mr. Cookie Moon and the like, based on where the earth is in relation to the moon as it orbits the earth. When the earth is out of the way, the sun shines on the entire moon illuminating the whole surface. The more of the earth that is in the path between the sun and the moon, then the less of the moon we see.

I think there is a lesson for us in this. Imagine that the earth is us, the sun is God, and the moon is His good plan for our lives. When we step out of the way, God will fully illuminate our path, just as the sun illuminates the moon when the earth isn't in the way. We can see where we are supposed to be going, and our path is illuminated and clear.

But when we move ourselves in between God and the path, and begin focusing on ourselves and our desires, then we block the path. It's harder to see the plan, because we are too busy thinking about what we want, rather than the direction that God wants us to go.

Cast lists are coming out. You may be very excited about your role, or you may be a bit disappointed. Don't forget that God has a great plan for your class and your show this year. You have the opportunity every week to embrace God's plan for your in your class. Do you have a smaller role? Did you know that God using amazing actors and actresses in the ensemble to complete a beautiful picture for His glory? Did you know that we need everyone to give 100% to bring the story to life? God is going to use YOU to be His reflection every week during class, all the way to the final performance.

May I challenge you to not step in the way of His plan, but rather, embrace it? Look for what God is doing in and around you during class. Rejoice in how He is using your classmates. Participate when you are asked. Sit with someone who is alone. Pray for your class. Start now!! In everything you do, related to STP this year, put God first! Don't cast a shadow on the work He is doing by focusing on yourself.

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There is a saying that I've recently heard that says, "Be like the moon, reflect the Son." To be a light in the darkness, we need to allow God to shine clearly into our lives. In order to do that, we have to trust that God's plan for us is the best plan, even when it is so very hard. The best way to trust Him more, is to read His word and pray for His guidance. We want to be more like Jesus, "reflecting the Son" each and every day. Ask for His spirit to help set yourself aside, and watch God shine the light of His love into your life and make the way for a great year at STP.

Table Talk: How can you reflect God's love each week at STP?