

“Let the Children Come”

Lessons and Activities for Vocational Awareness

GRADE: TWO

Belonging to God’s Family

GRADE TWO LESSON

BELONGING TO GOD'S FAMILY

Objectives:

To recognize that through Baptism I am a child of God and belong to His family, the Church.

To reinforce the reality that we are special in God's eyes and that through Baptism we are called to follow Him as a member of His family.

To recognize that all people have a special call from God that they received at Baptism.

Teacher Notes:

We are insecure when we lack a sense of belonging. This affects our sense of self worth and limits us from being all God wants us to be. For most of us, our family will give us that first sense of belonging. It is important to have a sense of belonging. We need to fit in, to be a part of a group where love is shared. At our Baptism we became a child of God; knowing that we are part of God's family will give us the confidence to follow God, who loves us unconditionally.

Materials:

2-foot piece of string or yarn for each child and the teacher.

Bible

Procedure:

Here's a piece of string for each of us. What could you do with your string? What would happen if we tied our strings together? (Teacher, hang on to your string). Tie your piece of string to another person's. Let's keep tying the strings together until we have one long string. Now what could we do with this long string? This piece (the teacher's) is good and we can do certain things with a small string, but we can do so much more with a long piece. We are like the little pieces of string and can do great things by ourselves, but when we join our gifts together (like we did with the strings), we can do so much more. We belong to a group, our family. We use our gifts to help each other. That, too, is what the family of God, the Church, is like. We join our gifts together to serve God and share Jesus' love. All of us belong to God's family - when did that happen (*at Baptism - we became a child of God and became part of God's family*).

Activity 1:

Hand out the sheet of Jesus' Baptism. Have the students color in the picture of John Baptizing Jesus.

Scripture:

After they are done coloring their picture. Read Matthew 3:13-17; Jesus shows us that Baptism is an important part of pleasing God. He began His ministry after He let John baptize Him. Point out how God was pleased with Jesus being obedient.

Tell the students that when they were baptized, God gave to each of them a special mission, a calling to live as holy people with a vocation, and He wants them to find out what that is as they grow in their faith. As a member of God's family we are called to live as holy people in one of the following ways: Married, Single, Religious Sisters or Brothers or as Priests or Deacons.



JESUS' BAPTISM

Teacher Notes: The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare* - 'to call'. The Second Vatican Council make it clear that there is a "Universal call to holiness in the Church (*Lumen Gentium*, 39). God calls each person to Himself whether that be through the married, single, priestly or religious life. He calls us at Baptism, when we became a child of God, to respond to His Will, so that by being faithful to our vocation we will help others on their way to the Father.

Materials:

Telephone

Bible

Procedure:

Hold up the phone and ask "What is this" (*telephone*)

What do people do with a phone?

Who might call you and what might they say?

Do you ever call anyone, and what do you say to them?

God calls us too. Does He call us on the telephone?

Can you dial God in heaven and talk to Him on the phone?

If God doesn't call us on the phone, how can we hear Him?

List ways: Jesus, creation, sacraments, prayer, Sacred Scripture, Church, other people, events.

God calls all of us to live good and holy lives. What does that mean?

Scripture:

We are called to live our holiness in different ways.

Read 1 John 3:7 or 1 Peter 1:15-16

God calls some people to be holy by being married. A man and woman who love each other very much become a husband and wife. They might have a family. They help each other and their family to grow closer to God. Some married men become Deacons, serving the Church and their family.

God calls other people to be holy by living a single life. They are not married, nor are they priests or religious. These people often give help to others.

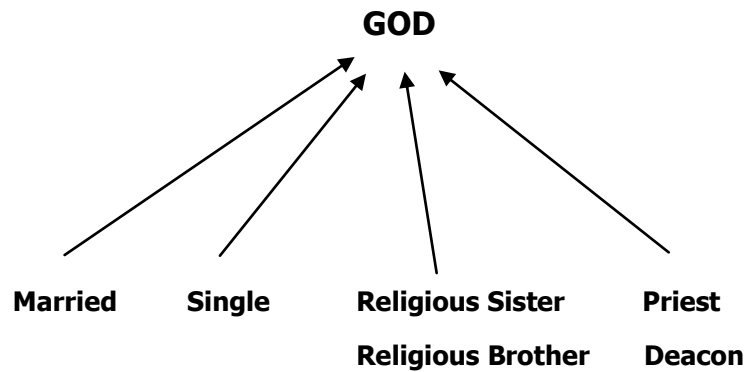
God calls still other people to be religious sisters or brothers. They love God and try to share His love with others. We call these people Sister or Brother.

Still others may be called to live out their holiness as a priest. We call them Father. They serve and love all God's people.

Scripture cont.

All of these ways of life - married, single, religious sister or brother, priest are ways for people to grow in holiness and help one another on their way to God.

Draw on the Chalkboard or overhead:



No matter to which life God calls us, it is important to listen very carefully to what God is saying and find out which life He wants us to live. We can do that by: praying to God, listening to what we hear at Mass, learn more about our gifts and by receiving the Sacraments.

Scripture:

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (*The Call of Samuel*)

Talk to the children about Samuel just being a young boy, but that deep in his heart he wanted to follow God. Invite them to talk to God in prayer about hearing and answering God's call in their lives.

Closing Prayer: (have the students repeat each line after you)

God, our Father

You call us to be holy,

Help us to know Your will.

Help us to listen to Your call.

Help us to say "yes" to You.

Amen