

EQ #2: How do I follow Jesus Christ? (Part 2-VOCATIONS)

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- As a parent, you may also be interested in tips for praying that your children are attentive to whatever Christian vocation they are called to and, should marriage be their path, how to begin praying now for their *future spouse* – yes, starting now. You will find some beautiful reflections at:

The focus of this Unit has been on how we go forth and help to bring about the Kingdom of God right here on earth as Christian disciples. God has a special plan, or *vocation*, for each of our lives. This vocation is designed to use the unique gifts and talents that we were created with in order to cooperate with God in making His Kingdom visible here on earth. When we live lives of virtue that are driven by care, concern and service to others and a desire to share all that we know to be true about our beloved Savior with those who we encounter, we answer our Baptismal call, vocation or mission. By answering the call to become our authentic selves – i.e., the best version of ourselves that God created us to be - we experience *true* happiness in our life. We are defined through our relationship with God and Jesus Christ and not by the world around us. This freedom allows us to grow deeper in that happiness with the Spirit enkindling in our hearts a passion bursting forth to share the source of our joy – i.e., the Gospel message

- Review the appropriate grade-level learning targets from the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* (CFLFF) posted on the Catechist website at <https://stlaurence.org/the-catechist> for your age group. Keep these targets in mind as you prepare for and progress through the weekly lesson, making discussion points based upon these specific age-appropriate targets.
- Reflect upon a favorite Scriptural passage that you would like to share with your children about how God has a special plan, or *vocation*, for each of our lives, and explain why the passage is important to or resonates with you. Or, you might like to consider any one of the following:

- Create a [Prayer Table](#) (or check out [How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)) in a special corner of the classroom. Keep a Bible reverently displayed there to be used for readings in your lessons. When proclaiming *The Word* to children, it is more impactful to read directly from the Bible and not just from their workbooks. This gives them the sense that this is not just any book.
- Establish a comfortable learning space in your classroom for your session.

- A Catholic family or children’s Bible (go to [USCCB](#) for approved Bible translations); on campus, we use the [ST. MARY’S PRESS CHILDREN’S BIBLE](#), a classroom set of which is located in the “CCE” storage cabinet.
- An electronic device with reliable internet access (i.e., an in-class mounted TV or TV cart if a video will be watched as part of the lesson)
- Sticky notes
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed (located in the “CCE” storage and your class bin)
- (*Optional*): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson



ENGAGE

(Mental warm-up)

Say, “Recently, we have been discussing how we are called to follow Jesus Christ and the expectations of how we live that out. Today, we will talk about how God creates each of us for a special purpose in making His Kingdom known here on earth. Let’s listen to one of my favorite passages from the Bible about how God has called people of faith to do His will throughout history... *(Read your favorite passage from the Bible about God calling a person of faith into service and explain WHY it is important to you or resonates with you)* ... You know, when we answer God’s call to serve him in a particular way, we live out the special purpose that He created us for, or our *vocation*.”

EXPLORE

(Pre-assessment of faith concepts)

Ask/Discuss, “What can you tell me about the different ways we might follow Jesus as we respond to God’s call for our Christian vocation?”

- ❖ As the children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your discovery space. (For younger children, you may act as the ‘scribe’). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what your child or children already know or don’t know. This will be helpful as you move along through today’s lesson.
 - ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion above, use some of the following prompts: What is a *vocation*? Is a vocation the same thing as a job? Can I have a job and a vocation? Who decides what our vocation will be? How do we choose/decide our vocation? Can you name some Christian vocations in the Catholic Church? Who are the clergy? The laity? What are vows? What do all Catholic Christian vocations have in common? How do each of the Catholic Christian vocations serve the universal (greater) Church? How does following Jesus and his ways help us live out our special calling, or vocations, as his disciples? *Plus, any others you can think of...*
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EQ “Essential Question”

(This question serves as a cognitive bookend for the children – i.e., it is the targeted “so what” or “take-away” of the lesson being presented. If your learners can articulate a relevant answer to this question by the end of the session, you have done your job. 😊)

Share and post the physical representation of the lesson’s EQ in your classroom (Note: Each classroom is equipped with a set of *EQ posters* corresponding to those posted on the weekly *Lesson Schedule*):

How do I follow Jesus Christ?

EXPLAIN (These comprehensive lessons on *Vocations* are meant to be presented to your learners. This is not content which should be turned over to the children to be completed alone, as there are certain prompts and activities which need to be navigated through,

content to be explained and topics to be discussed as a class. **Staff will prepare copies of all of the related content and activities and provide them in your class bin):**

- Grade 1: *** “Let the Children Come” [GRADE 1](#) Vocations Lesson: *God Loves Me and I Love God*
- Grade 2:** “Let the Children Come” [GRADE 2](#) Vocations Lesson: *Belonging to God’s Family*
- Grade 3:** “Let the Children Come” [GRADE 3](#) Vocations Lesson: *Using Our Gifts and Talents to Give Glory to God and to Help Others*
- Grade 4:** “Let the Children Come” [GRADE 4](#) Vocations Lesson: *Signs of a Vocation – Following Jesus*
- Grade 5:** “Let the Children Come” [GRADE 5](#) Vocations Lesson: *Service in the Church plus Alive in Christ*, pg. 335 (*Serving God through the Body*)

***NOTE:** We are aware that some of our lower Elementary learners have been delayed and are not all reading ready. As the Catechist or class facilitator, your role is to help your learners understand or connect with the *content* of the weekly lesson. You can convey the assigned weekly content from the *Alive in Christ* textbook in a variety of creative ways that are appropriate and effective for your learners and does not involve the class taking turns reading from the student text. Review the content *beforehand*, and feel free to introduce other methods of conveying it or more specifically adapting it to your learners. Some suggested ideas can include the use of any of the following, many of which are available on campus. Just ask a staff member. These are:

- *Story Books*
- *Felt Board Creation Figures* to tell the stories
- *Role-playing/Skits*
- *Manipulatives*
- *Costumes/Dress-up*
- *Puppets*

If you have any questions or need suggestions, be sure to reach out to a staff member. Be sure to also check out the supplemental resources at the end of this Lesson Plan outline for additional ideas.

EXTEND

(When you have covered the lesson material together invite children to share, in turn, what they learned about *Vocations* and the special ways that God invites us to live out our Baptismal call as Catholic Christians. Affirm positive answers and interject grade-level learning targets into the discussion, where applicable. As a class (or in groups), come up with a list of *at least three new things* that the children learned, were surprised by or think others should know about what a Christian vocation is, and how God has a plan or a special path to

happiness for each of our lives. Then, *extend the lesson together by completing at least one of the activities provided below).*

Lower Elementary (K-2):

- **Videos**
 - Watch [WHAT'S YOUR VOCATION?](#) about Christian vocations, or
 - [AN ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY](#) or [THE STORY OF HOW GOD CALLS MOSES](#) about how two special people of faith responded to God's call to serve Him
- **Crafts/Activities**
 - Make the [NUN PAPER BAG PUPPET](#), [PAPER DOLL PRIESTS](#) or construct your own [MASS KIT](#) and discuss how these represent very special Catholic Christian callings from God or *vocations*, or
 - Complete the [CALLED TO SERVICE](#) worksheet by describing or drawing pictures of how Catholic Christians are called to live out their vocations.

Upper Elementary (3-5):

- **Videos**
 - Watch [WHAT'S YOUR VOCATION?](#) or [VOCATION 101: WHAT IS VOCATION?](#) about vocations in general, or
 - Watch [SISTERS RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL](#) or [FROM PRO SOCCER TO THE PRIESTHOOD](#) about religious vocations in the Catholic Church
- **Crafts/Activities**
 - Complete the [VOCATIONS AND THE TRINITY](#) activity or construct your own [MASS KIT](#)
 - Complete either the [MY VOCATION](#) or [WHERE IS GOD LEADING ME?](#) worksheet

EVALUATE/REFLECT

Restate today's Essential Question (EQ) – *How do I follow Jesus Christ?*

Summarize what's been learned during this lesson, emphasizing those concepts which may have been missed or misunderstood in the EXPLORE step above.

- **Say,** "Everyone has a *vocation*. A vocation is God's plan for our lives: the specific purpose for which He made us. Sometimes God calls a person for a particular role. When Jesus was ready to begin his work here on earth, he gathered some friends to help him. Remember them? The first twelve disciples. Jesus said he would make them 'fishers of men' as they helped him spread the *Good News* of God's love. Not everyone hears God's call as clearly as the first disciples did. Sometimes it takes many years of praying and listening to know our vocations. Our vocation is usually not the same thing as our job or what we do for a living, but rather is our Christian purpose – what God wants for our lives so that we can experience true happiness.

The *mission* of the Church is to be *catholic* (little 'c' = universal), and to welcome every person who wishes to be a disciple of Jesus. Through the *Sacrament of Baptism*, all of us are called to serve others, spread the *Gospel Message* and build up the *Body of Christ* (the Church). All Christian vocations come from God's grace that we receive in Baptism and are important in His plan for humanity. Being part of a family brings many responsibilities and being part of God's family, the Church, brings responsibilities too.

The Catholic Church recognizes four ways in which people respond to God's call to serve: through the *priesthood*, *consecrated religious life*, *committed single life*, or the *married life*. Consecrated religious life is a state of life in which a person makes vows, or solemn promises made to or before God, that help them to grow in holiness. Priests and married couples take vows as well. The Church recognizes that some people may be called to serve God by remaining single. The dedicated single life is also a vocation. Both single and married people are part of the *laity*. All who are baptized are invited to serve the universal Church and the parish community. Baptism sets each of us on a journey of holiness and it is our responsibility to discern (or discover with God's grace) what this path will look like in each of our lives.

- **Say,** “Think back to the passage that I read from the Bible at the beginning of our lesson today. What did it tell us about how God has a special plan for each of our lives and the various ways that he may ‘call’ us to fulfill that?” *(Discuss together, affirming appropriate answers and reinforcing lesson teaching points)*
- **Separately reflect on these questions:** *How has my relationship with God/Jesus Christ changed this year by learning more about him and the Catholic faith? How will this special encounter as well as the practices of our Catholic faith I have learned about help me to better understand my own Christian vocation or calling? How can I best serve Jesus Christ at this time in my life?* *(After some reflection time, have the children turn and share their answers with a partner or the class).*

Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask your learners to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and recite a favorite prayer, choose one from the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#), pray the [PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS](#) or the [PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS](#) together as a class, or ask the children to offer up their [INTERCESSORY INTENTIONS](#). Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).



- **What We Pray:** The [Traveling Chalice Program](#) at St. Laurence parish provides an opportunity for vocation visibility, inviting families to pray for vocations in their own homes. Check out the program on the parish website and discuss as a family praying for vocations in this special way. This is a wonderful way for families to build up the universal Church by praying especially for religious *vocations*.
- **Saint of the Week:** *Saint Paul* had a dramatic encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus ([Acts 9: 1-19](#)) which changed the direction of his life *forever*. He is one of Christianity's most recognized missionary disciples.

Watch one of the videos about Saint Paul's life at [GOD'S STORY: PAUL](#) or [PAUL'S MINISTRY](#). Or, with the help of your parents safely use the internet to research interesting facts about Saint Paul's life. Then, reflect upon and answer the following questions:

- What surprised you most about Paul's life *before* his encounter with the Lord?
- In what way did Paul's encounter with the Lord change the direction of his life (i.e., what became his new *vocation* or mission)?
- How did Paul live out his vocation or mission? Was that easy to do?
- What can I learn by reflecting upon the life of Saint Paul and how can I live by his example in my own life?

Want to extend your lesson in class or at home about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Catechist's discretion, if desired:

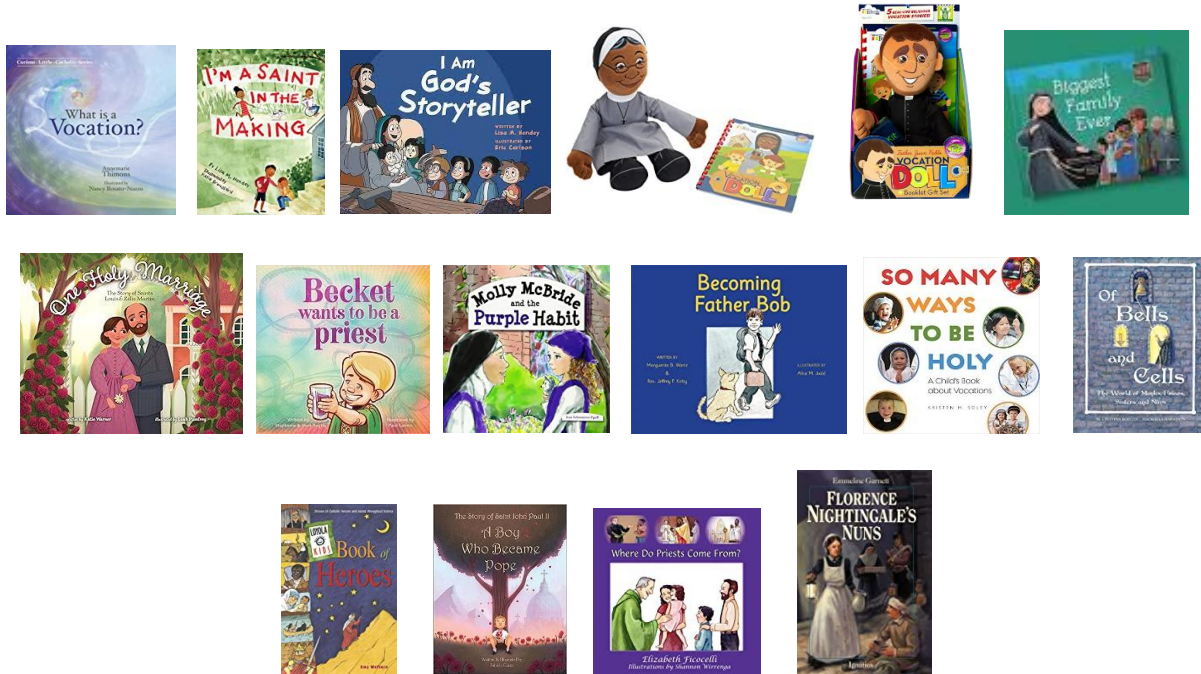
- **Catechist Preparation Videos/Resources:** [PATHS OF LOVE](#) , [VOCATIONS](#), [PROMOTE VOCATIONS](#), [OUR VOCATION & CALLING: A GIFT FROM GOD](#) (article from Catechist magazine), [PARENT'S SUPPORT IN VOCATION DISCERNMENT](#)(8:02),[TEACHING YOUR KIDS ABOUT THEIR VOCATION IN LIFE](#) (13:17), [ENCOURAGING VOCATIONS FOR PARENTS](#) (1:44), [HELPING YOUR CHILD DISCERN THEIR VOCATION](#) (4:59), [WHAT'S MY VOCATION?](#) (6:10), [WHAT'S YOUR CALLING?](#) (5:40), [DOMINIC'S VOCATION](#) (7:38), [DON'T BECOME A PRIEST](#) (6:37), [CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD FISHERS OF MEN](#) (18:19), [DISCERNING GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE](#) (7:13), [DISCERNING YOUR VOCATION?](#) (7:56), [WHAT IS MY VOCATION?](#) (5:12)
- **Lesson Plans:** [HOLY ORDERS](#), [USCCB VOCATION AWARENESS](#), [VOCATIONS LESSON PLANS](#), [VOCATIONS CURRICULA BY GRADE](#), [VOCATIONS LESSON PLANS 2](#), [VOCATION ACTIVITIES](#), [WHAT DO SISTERS DO?](#), ['TO BROTHER' A PERSONAL STORY](#)
- **Videos:** [VOCATION 101: WHAT IS A VOCATION?](#) (2:43),[WHAT'S YOUR VOCATION?](#) (2:05), [PRAY, DISCERN & DO IT](#) (6:20), [VOCATIONS FOR KIDS](#) (7:50), [A DAY IN MY LIFE](#) (5:46) [DISCERNING GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE](#) (7:13), [I WILL FOLLOW: TWO PRIESTS VOCATION STORIES](#) (10:40), [FROM PRO SOCCER TO THE PRIESTHOOD](#) (5:14), [HOLY ORDERS \(WHAT ORDINATION MEANS\)](#) (7:59), [A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SEMINARIAN](#) (2:54), [MARRIAGE \(CATHOLIC CENTRAL\)](#) (5:55), [THE DAY MY LIFE CHANGED FOREVER](#) (16:44), [MY VOCATION STORY: NICHOLAS MORRISON](#) (7:11), [MY VOCATION STORY: SR. AMANDA](#) (12:02), [SISTERS RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL](#) (3:52), [PRIESTHOOD VS. PARENTHOOD](#) (8:45), [300 YEARS OF SISTER HISTORY](#) (OLDER – 1 incident of offensive language, but a great video for older children) (5:29), [NUN DOLL COLLECTION PRESERVES HISTORY](#) (3:35)

- **On FORMED** (Refer to [INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING FORMED](#) to gain free access to the St. Laurence parish membership subscription):
 - *What is a Vocation? With Fr. Scott Traynor* (18 min.)
 - *One Sister's Vocation: Daughters of St. Paul* (12 min.)
 - *Formed Daily: Your Job is Not Your Vocation* (1 min.)
- **Activities/Games:** [MY VOCATION WORKSHEET](#), [CALLED TO SERVICE WORKSHEET](#), [WHERE AM I CALLED? WORKSHEET](#), [VOCATION OF SERVICE COMMITMENT CARD](#), [WHERE IS GOD LEADING ME WORKSHEET](#), [BEHOLD, I COME TO DO YOUR WILL WORKSHEET](#), [MASS COLORS & CELEBRATIONS MATCHING WORKSHEET](#), [A GUIDE TO RECOGNIZING RELIGIOUS & MONASTIC HABITS](#) (slide show), [CAN YOU MATCH THESE HABITS WITH THEIR RELIGIOUS ORDERS?](#) (online quiz), [CATHOLIC SISTERS HABITS](#) (pictures of dolls in habits from around the world)
- **Crafts:** [VOCATIONS & THE TRINITY](#), [HANDS THAT SERVE](#), [LOOK TO HIM & BE RADIANT PART 2](#), [NUN PUPPET](#), [PAPER DOLL PRIESTS](#), [PRIEST PEG DOLLS](#), [PRIEST VESTMENTS](#), [NUN FINGER PUPPET](#), [MAKE YOUR OWN MASS KIT](#) or [MASS KIT](#), [ORIGAMI NUNS](#), [PRAYING FOR OUR PRIESTS CARDS](#), [NUN PEG DOLLS](#)



- **Picture Books:** (Certain copies are on hand – just ask a staff member!)
 - *What is a Vocation?* By Annemarie Thimons and Nancy Rosato-Nuzzo (x2)
 - *I'm a Saint in the Making*, by Lisa M. Hendey and Katie Broussard (x3)
 - *I am God's Storyteller*, by Lisa Hendey (x2)
 - *Wee Believers Fr. Juan Pablo and Sr. Mary Clara Vocation Dolls & Books* (1 set each)
 - *Biggest Family Ever*, by Mother Clare Matthiass (x1)
 - *One Holy Marriage: The Story of Saints Louis & Zelig Martin*, by Katie Warner (x1)
 - *Becket Wants to be a Priest*, by Matt & Stephanie Regitz (x1)
 - *Molly McBride and the Purple Habit*, by Jean Schoonover-Egolf (x1)
 - *Becoming Father Bob*, by Peggy Wertz and Jeffrey Kirby

- *So Many Ways to be Holy: A Child's Book About Vocations*, by Kristen M. Soley
- *Of Bells and Cells*, by M. Cristina Borges and Michaela Harrison
- *Book of Heroes: Stories of Catholic Heroes and Saints throughout History*, By Amy Welborn and Vitali Konstantinov
- *The Story of Saint John Paul II: A Boy Who Became Pope* by Fabiola Garza
- *Where do Priests Come From?* By Elizabeth Ficocelli and Cheryl Dickow
- *Florence Nightingale's Nuns*, by Emmeline Garnett and Anne Marie Jauss



- **Manipulatives:**

- *My Pop Out Mass Kit* (4 sets are available for checkout)
Check out this fun video [LET'S PLAY MASS WITH FR. TIM](#) using this resource
- *The Wooden Mass Kit Playsets* (4 available for checkout)
- *Wee Believers Fr. Juan Pablo and Sr. Mary Clara Vocation Dolls & Books* (available - just ask!)

