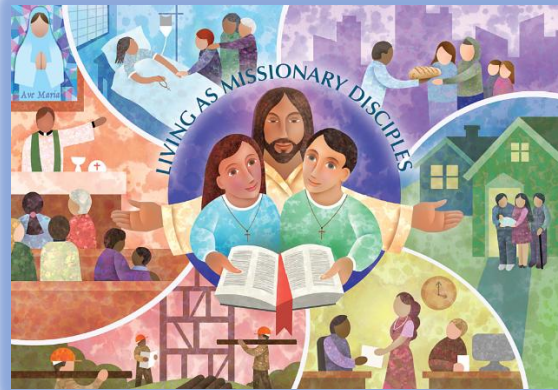


St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)
Week 17 Lesson Plan



Unit 4 – How are we called to become missionary disciples of Jesus Christ?

EQ #1: *Why and how am I called to follow Jesus Christ?*

CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- Prepare your adult heart and mind by watching one of the following videos ahead of the lesson: [WHAT IS A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE?](#), [WHY BE A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE?](#) or [LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES](#) and by reading the article at [GOD CALLS, WE RESPOND](#). You may also enjoy reviewing the many passages regarding the call to discipleship in the [SCRIPTURE FOR DISCERNMENT](#) found throughout God's Word.

As we begin our final unit for the faith formation year, we will explore: *How are we called to be missionary disciples of Jesus Christ?* As baptized members of the Church, every Catholic Christian has a mission or calling to share the *Good News* of Jesus Christ, no matter what their age or station of life might be. Our lives should bear witness to our relationships with Jesus Christ.

As Pope Francis explains in *The Joy of the Gospel*,

"Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries," but rather that we are always "missionary disciples."

Throughout this final Unit, we will explore why and how we are called to that missionary discipleship by learning how God particularly calls each one of us to serve. Although we assemble weekly at St. Laurence to profess our faith in and allegiance to Jesus Christ, we are members of the Universal or worldwide Church. Together, the Church is called to help bring about God's Kingdom here on earth as we love and serve one another and

spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and his gift of Salvation for all. We are all called to lives of holiness as we strive to join the Saints (and saints) in Heaven one day.

- 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 (or Jesus) calls us to discipleship and how we are expected to respond as baptized Christians. Then, explain why the passage is important to or resonates with you. Or, you might like to consider any one of the following:
[1 SAMUEL 3: 3-10](#), [MATTHEW 4: 18-22](#), [MATTHEW 10: 5-14](#), [MATTHEW 28: 16-20](#),
[MARK 1: 16-20](#), [JOHN 12: 26](#), [JOHN 13: 3-8](#)
- 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.

Supplies you may want to have on hand before beginning the Lesson:

- 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



OPENING PRAYER

Begin your discovery session today with your learners in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and then recite a favorite prayer, choose one of the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#) or sing [COME INTO MY HEART, LORD JESUS](#) or [COME LORD JESUS COME](#) together as a class. Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).

ENGAGE

(Mental warm-up)

Say, “All year long, we have been exploring how God sent Jesus to earth to save us from our sins. As we grow closer to Jesus, we discover how God calls each of us to Himself, through Jesus Christ. God has a special purpose and plan for each of our lives, if only we are open to listening for and hearing His voice. I want to share with you one of my favorite passages from the Bible which tells the story of how God (or Jesus) called an ordinary person to follow Him and His ways. (*Read your favorite ‘calling’ or discernment passage from the Bible and explain WHY it is important to you or resonates with you*) ... Guess what? God (or Jesus) calls ordinary people, just like each of us, to be his followers and gives us each a special purpose or mission in His plan.”

EXPLORE

(Pre-assessment of faith concepts)

Ask/Discuss, “What can you tell me about why and how God (or Jesus) calls us to follow Him?”

- ❖ 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: How does God (or Jesus) speak to us? How can we best hear God’s (or Jesus’) voice in our lives? How should we respond when God (or Jesus) calls us? What is *trust*? What is *obedience*? What is a *vocation*? Do we each have a *vocation*? What is a *disciple* and what does a disciple do? Why did Jesus need disciples? What is a *mission*? Do we each have a mission as baptized Catholics? What is our *mission* as the People of God? *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*):

Why and how am I called to follow Jesus Christ?

EXPLAIN

(Either as a class guided with your assistance, or working independently - or in groups - have the children review their relevant grade-level material – listed below - and complete the workbook activities, where applicable).

Grade 1: * *Alive in Christ, Chapter 10 (Responding to God)*

Grade 2: *Alive in Christ, Chapter 20 (Go Forth!)*

Grade 3: *Alive in Christ, Chapter 12 (Catholic and Apostolic) and Chapter 20: Pgs. 268-272*

(*The Work of the Church*)

Grade 4: *Alive in Christ*, **Chapter 10** (*Called to Serve*) and **Chapter 11: Pgs. 166-170** (*Models of Virtue*)

Grade 5: *Alive in Christ*, **Chapter 19** (*The Call to Serve*) and **Chapter 12: Pgs. 175-178** (*Lives Of Holiness*)

***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

(Gather back together and invite children to share, in turn, what they learned about how God calls us through Jesus to serve Him and others. 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 how God gives us a special purpose and provides us with special gifts so that we might respond to His call. Then, *extend the lesson together by completing at least one of the activities* provided below).

Lower Elementary (K-2)

- **Video** Watch [GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL](#) or [GOD CALLS SAMUEL](#)
- **Crafts/Activities**
 - Make the [LISTENING EARS](#), [LISTENING FOR GOD](#) or one of the [FISHERS OF MEN CRAFTS](#), or
 - Complete the [I WILL LISTEN AND ANSWER GOD WORKSHEET](#), or

- Play the [DON'T LET GOD'S WORDS FALL TO THE GROUND GAME](#) or the [SPEAK FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING GAME](#) (scroll down towards the bottom of the page for both game preparation and instructions)

Upper Elementary (3-5):

- **Video** Watch [JESUS PICKS HIS DISCIPLES](#) or [GOD CALLS SAMUEL](#)
- **Crafts/Activities**
 - Make either the [FISHING NET CRAFT](#) or the [12 DISCIPLES EGGS](#) craft (bottom of the page), or
 - Play the [DON'T LET GOD'S WORDS FALL TO THE GROUND GAME](#) (scroll down towards the bottom of the page for both game preparation and instructions), or one of the [WHEN GOD CALLS YOUR NAME](#) games

EVALUATE/REFLECT

Restate today's Essential Question (EQ) – *Why and how am I called to 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**, "Throughout God's Word in the Bible, we hear stories about Him reaching out to His children and calling ordinary people to Himself. Because of their faith in God and openness to hearing His voice in their lives, God uses their special talents and skills to teach others about Himself and to help bring about His Kingdom here on earth. Some of the most memorable of these everyday people were Noah ([Genesis 6:5-9:17](#)) who God entrusted the future of humanity to during a great flood, Our Blessed Mother Mary who God entrusted to give birth to and care for His Son Jesus ([Luke 1: 26-38](#)), and Saul who had initially mistreated Jesus' followers but then became Paul, one of the greatest defenders and teachers of the Christian faith ([Acts 9: 1-30](#)).

In each of these cases, these very ordinary people responded to God's request to do something special with a resounding "YES". Even though they may not have completely understood what God was asking of them or why He chose them, they *obeyed* God's request and agreed to do His Will. Because they had confidence in God's word and *trusted* in Him, they were willing and able to do things that others may have otherwise been afraid to do. In this way, they fulfilled their *vocation* or God's special plan for their lives. They are models of holiness for us. Part of holiness is being able to accept and do the things that God asks. We can gain inspiration from their stories, as well as those of the Saints, or holy people of God, and the example of their lives in answering God's call in some special way.

While he lived on earth, God's Son, Jesus Christ, called people to return to God and follow His ways. Jesus invited twelve very ordinary men (can you name any of them?) to be his special friends, or *disciples*, and help him with his work. He said he would make them "fishers of men." Jesus asked his friends to leave everything behind in order to follow and learn from him. Eventually, these disciples became the first Apostles of the Church, spreading the Good News of God's Kingdom and founding Christianity throughout the world. Jesus made it clear to his followers that they must live a life in service to others as his disciples.

Through our Baptisms, we share in Jesus' very own ministry. By his ministry here on earth, Jesus announced the Kingdom of God as revealed in his own life through the love, peace and justice that God intends for all of His children. Every person has the responsibility to answer the call from God and to choose a *vocation* in which they cooperate with God as He makes His Kingdom become visible here on earth. All vocations involve honest and useful work which are a reflection of God's goodness in each of us. He creates us with a special purpose (or vocation) and equips us with the gifts and talents we will need for that task. Like the story of the boy Samuel in the Bible ([1 SAMUEL 3: 3-10](#)), we must always be alert and listen for that still small voice of God in our lives and be willing to respond with an enthusiastic "YES" when we are called to do His Will. Just like Samuel, we should be willing to say, "Speak, for your servant is listening..."

- ## ***CLOSING PRAYER***

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- **What We Pray:** Learn the [CHILDREN'S PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS](#) or write a prayer of your own asking God to lead you towards your special purpose in life. Reflect upon this prayer, memorize it and make it a part of your daily prayer routine.
- **Saint of the Week:** Sacred art throughout history has had the role of inspiring the faithful and deepening their understanding of the faith. Oftentimes, the artist portrays stories from the Bible which serve to teach the faithful about the life of Jesus and/or the Saints, and how those stories apply to each one of us. One such painting is *The Calling of Saint Matthew* by the artist Michelangelo Caravaggio (known as "Caravaggio").

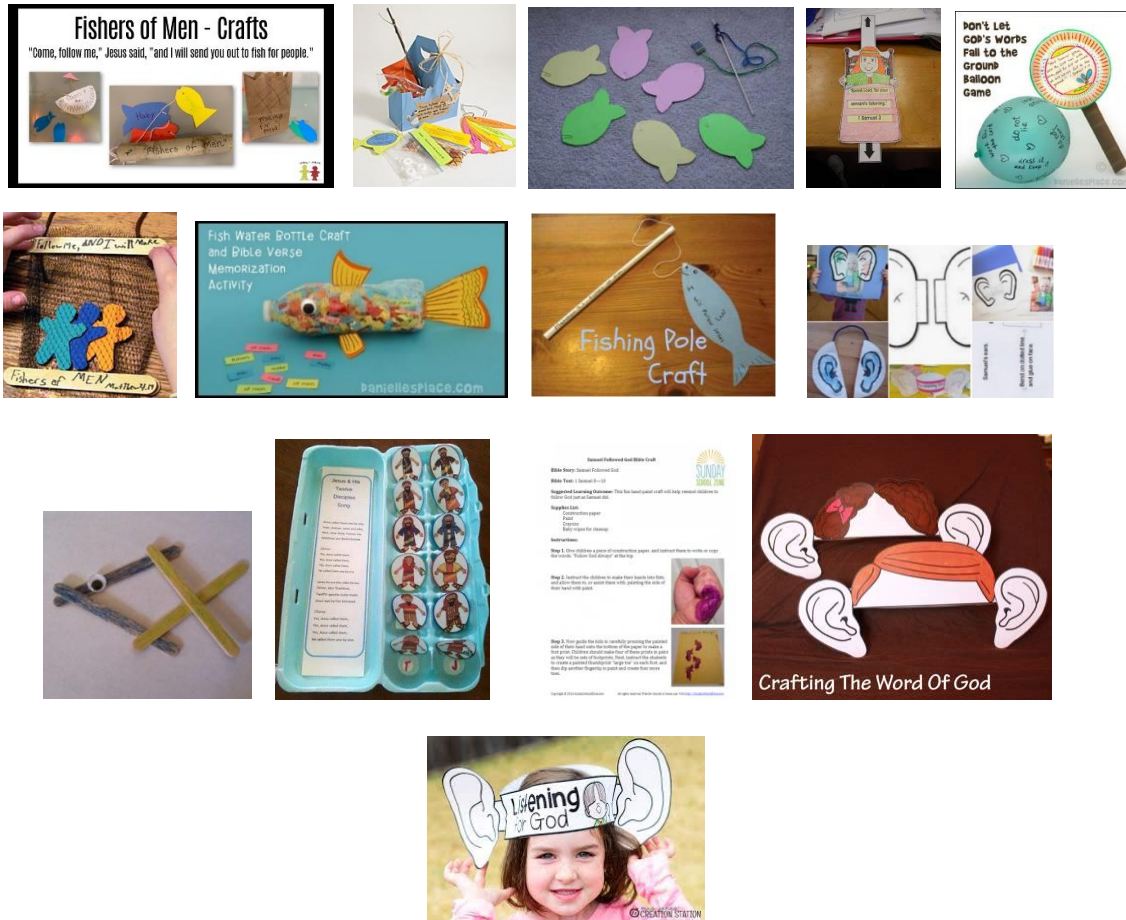
Watch the video about *The Calling of Saint Matthew* at [CARAVAGGIO: THE CALLING OF SAINT MATTHEW](#) and then reflect upon the questions that follow:

- What feeling or sentiment does the expression on Matthew's face convey to you? Can you relate? Why or why not?
- Do you think it was hard for Matthew (formerly, Levi the tax collector) to give up his former way of life? Why or why not?
- Do you find it hard to always follow Jesus? How can Matthew's story help encourage you to do so?

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:** [POPE FRANCIS](#), [WHAT IS A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE?](#) (5:24), [FAITH EXPOSED MISSIONARY DISCIPLE](#) (3:51), [MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP: A DISCIPLESHIP THAT REACHES OUT](#) (2:56) [LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES](#) (10:37), [WHY BE A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE?](#) (3:48), [MISSIONARY DISCIPLE: WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?](#) (3:57), [HOW TO BE A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE IN LOCKDOWN](#), [HOW TO SAY YES TO GOD](#) (8:42)
- **Lesson Plans:** [MAKING DISCIPLES](#), [THE JESUS TEAM](#), [GOD CALLS SAMUEL](#), [GOD CALLS SAMUEL 2](#), [CALLED BY GOD](#), [GOD'S CALL](#) (can be adapted for younger kids), [JESUS CALLS THE DISCIPLES FOR PRESCHOOLERS](#), [JESUS PICKS HIS DISCIPLES](#), [JESUS NEEDED DISCIPLES TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE](#), [SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS](#), [HOW TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE](#)
- **Videos:** [GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL](#) (2:33), [SAMUEL LISTENS TO GOD](#) (2:42), [FOLLOW JESUS - EPISODE 1](#) (3:43), [FOLLOW JESUS - EPISODE 2](#) (2:55), [JESUS CALLS THE DISCIPLES](#) (3:23), [JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES](#) (2:46), [JESUS CHOOSES HIS DISCIPLES](#) – younger (1:20), [JESUS CALLS PETER](#) (2:53), [JESUS IS CALLING YOU!](#) (2:05); [JESUS CALLS THE DISCIPLES](#) (3:23), [JESUS CALLS MATTHEW](#) (3:22), [TUNE IN TO THE VOICE OF GOD](#) (5:01), [HEAR GOD'S VOICE](#) (14:15), [HERE I AM LORD](#) (3:47), [JESUS CALLS THE FIRST DISCIPLES](#) (1:45), [THE CALL OF PAUL](#) (3:57), [JESUS CALLED DISCIPLES](#) (6:58), [FOLLOW JESUS](#) (2:18), [COME LORD JESUS COME SONG](#) (2:24), [JESUS PICKS HIS DISCIPLES](#) (2:41), [I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS SONG](#) (3:03), [NAME THAT SOUND: HEARING GOD'S VOICE](#) (13:49)
- **Crafts:** [FISHERS OF MEN CRAFTS](#), [FISHERS OF MEN TACKLE BOX](#), [MAGNET FISHING GAME CRAFT](#), [FISH CRAFTS](#), [WHEN GOD CALLS YOUR NAME GAMES](#), [I CAN TALK TO GOD CRAFT](#), [SPEAK LORD, I'M LISTENING](#), [GOD CALLS SAMUEL](#), [DON'T LET GOD'S WORDS FALL TO THE GROUND GAME](#), [FISHING NET CRAFT](#), [SAMUEL LISTENS TO GOD](#),

[FISHERS OF MEN BIBLE CRAFT](#), [FISHING POLE CRAFT](#), [PAPER PLATE LISTENING EARS](#),
[FISHERS OF MEN CRAFT STICK](#), [12 DISCIPLES EGGS](#), [SAMUEL FOLLOWED GOD CRAFT](#),
[LISTENING EARS](#), [LISTENING FOR GOD](#)



- **Activities/Games/Skits:** [GOD'S CALL & OUR RESPONSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS](#), [SAMUEL'S CALLING SKIT](#), [SAMUEL PUPPET SHOW](#), [GOD CALLS EACH OF US BY NAME WORKSHEET](#), [I WILL LISTEN AND ANSWER GOD WORKSHEET](#), [SAY YES TO GOD GAME](#), [SAMUEL OBEYED GOD WORD SEARCH](#), [CALL OF SAMUEL CROSSWORD](#), [SAMUEL LISTENS SNACK](#) (please be aware of any learner food allergies), [SAMUEL HEARS GOD CALLING COLORING PAGE](#), [WHEN GOD CALLS YOUR NAME GAMES](#), [SAMUEL COLORING PAGE](#), [WHO SAID IT?](#), [CALL OF SAMUEL DECODER](#), [COME FOLLOW ME JESUS MAZE](#), [COURAGE TO FOLLOW PRAYER STATIONS](#), [JESUS CHOOSES 12 DISCIPLES MAZE](#), [JESUS CALLS EACH PERSON IN A SPECIAL WAY COLORING PAGE](#), [12 DISCIPLES MEMORY GAME](#)

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