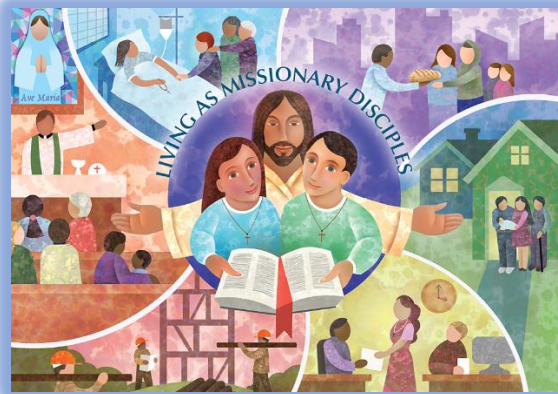


St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)
Week 18 Lesson Plan
(Home Study Version)



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?*

PARENT CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- Establish a dedicated time and comfortable learning space for your family discovery session.
- Create a [Prayer Table](#) (or check out [How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)) in a dedicated place in your home.
- 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."

- 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:

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

- [illegible]

Begin your discovery session today with your child or children in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask your 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 family. Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).

(Mental warm-up)

2

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 your child or 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...*

EQ “Essential Question”

(This question serves as a cognitive bookend for your child or children – i.e., it is the targeted “so what” or “take-away” of the lesson being presented that your child should be able to articulate at the end of your session today).

Share and post a physical representation of the lesson’s EQ in your study space:

Why and how am I called to follow Jesus Christ?

EXPLAIN

(Either guided with your assistance or working independently, have your child or children review their relevant grade-level material – listed below - and complete the workbook activities. *Empower older children by allowing them to mentor younger siblings*):

- Kinder:** *Call to Faith, Chapter 9 (You Follow Jesus) and Chapter 10: pgs. 93-94 (The Church)*
- 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)*
-

EXTEND

(As a family, gather back together and have each child share, in turn, what they learned about how God calls us through Jesus to serve Him and others. Together as a family, come up with

a list of *at least three new things* that you 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](#) 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](#)

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](#), 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.

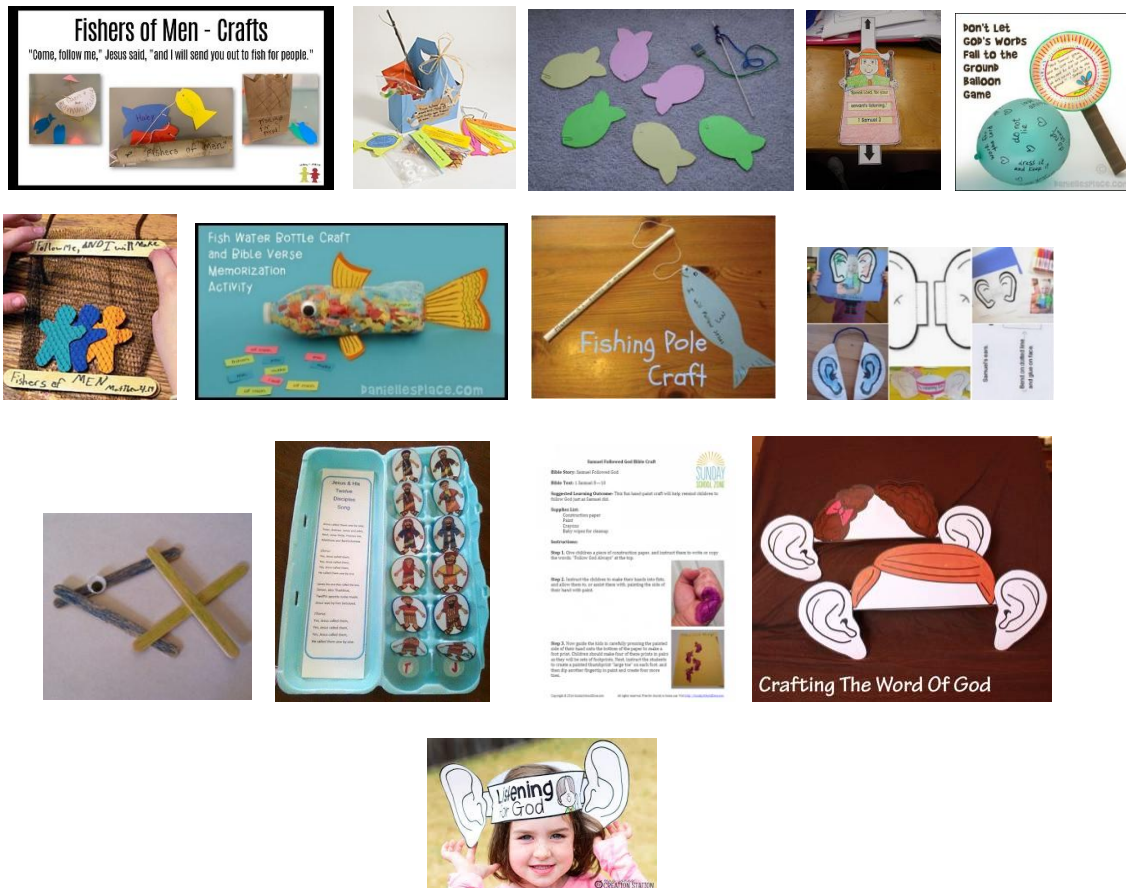
We, too, are invited to say “YES” to God. Jesus explained to us that God invites all of his children into His Kingdom. God’s Kingdom is His rule of peace, justice and love that exists in Heaven, but has not yet come to its fullness on earth. The Church is responsible for sharing Jesus’ message about God’s Kingdom with the entire world. This is the Church’s *mission* (or purpose/job). When we are baptized into the Catholic Church as one of its members by saying “YES” to God, this special *mission* of the Church in announcing the Good News of God’s Kingdom becomes our *mission* (or purpose) as well. When we encounter Jesus in our lives, we want to share that joy with others. We become *missionaries* who work together with God by bringing the Good News of His Kingdom to people in other places – sometimes close to home and other times, far away. Some missionaries even choose to fulfil the Church’s mission by traveling to distant countries around the world in order to share Jesus’ message and help others with their basic needs of life. Missionaries share both physical and spiritual (holy) things with the people that they serve. They, and we, are Christian 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...”

- **Say**, “Think back to the passage that I read from the Bible at the beginning of our lesson today. What does it tell us about how we should respond to God/Jesus’ call to follow him?” (*Discuss together, affirming appropriate answers and reinforcing lesson teaching points*)
- **Separately reflect on these questions: *God speaks to us in many ways – i.e. through nature, music, the Bible, events we participate in, literature, people, art, etc.* Have you ever experienced being *called* by God? If so, in what way or how did it happen? How did you feel and what were you called to do? How might you become more aware of the presence of God’s voice in your life?** (*After some reflection time, turn and share your answers with another family member*).

(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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