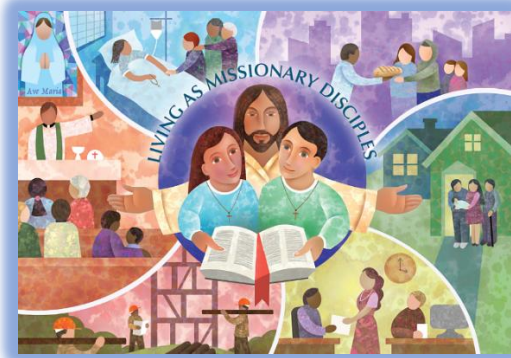


**St. Laurence Catholic Parish**  
**Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)**  
**Week 20 Lesson Plan**  
(Home Study Version)



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

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

#### 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: [HELPING YOUR CHILD DISCERN THEIR VOCATION](#), [DISCERNING GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE](#) or [WHAT'S YOUR CALLING?](#), and reading one of the articles at [HOW TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD'S RELIGIOUS VOCATION](#) or [OUR VOCATION & CALLING: A GIFT FROM GOD](#)

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:

[PARENTS' PRAYER FOR THE VOCATIONS OF THEIR CHILDREN](#) or [PRAYING FOR YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE SPOUSE](#)

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

- 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:

**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*)
- An electronic device with reliable internet access
- Sticky notes
- Art/craft or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils
- (*Optional*): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson

## OPENING PRAYER

**ENGAGE**

**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 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: 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 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:

***How do I follow Jesus Christ?***

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**EXPLAIN** (These comprehensive lessons on *Vocations* are meant to be presented to your learner by a mentor parent/catechist. This is not content which should be turned over to a child 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 family. If you have multiple children in Grade 1 and below, the Kindergarten lesson would be appropriate for all. If you have multiple children in Grades 2-5, the Grade 3 lesson would be appropriate for all):

**Kinder:** “*Let the Children Come*” **PREK to KINDERGARTEN** Vocations Lesson: *God Made Me Special and Has a Plan for Me*

**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*

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### **EXTEND**

(As a family, gather back together and have each child 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. 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 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
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### **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.

Every baptized Christian 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 visible on earth. *God’s Reign* or rule is a world of love, peace and justice that He intends, but we will not fully experience until we reach Heaven. Jesus announced *God’s Kingdom* and revealed it in his life and ministry through his actions and words, but God’s Kingdom will not be realized here on earth until the end of time when Christ returns in glory. Until then, we are called to help God increase his rule in our lives and in the world.

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.

You can already use your gifts from God to make a difference. Discerning your *vocation* means learning through prayer, about what God wants you to do. You don’t have to do something big and public to make the world a better place. You can do it quietly and privately. As Saint Teresa, the “Little Flower” says, “We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” In this way, we too can live our daily lives doing very ordinary things with extraordinary care as many of the great Saints who answered their special call to be disciples of Jesus Christ did themselves on their own paths to holiness.

- **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, turn and share your answers with another family member*).

## ***CLOSING 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 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 family, or ask your child/children to offer up their [INTERCESSORY INTENTIONS](#). Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).



### BONUS (optional)

- **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](#), [PAUL'S MINISTRY](#), or [CATHOLIC KIDS MEDIA: WHO IS PAUL?](#) 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 family's formation about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Parent Catechist's discretion, if desired:***

- **Parent 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:**

- *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
- *What is a Vocation?* By Annemarie Thimons and Nancy Rosato-Nuzzo
- *Book of Heroes: Stories of Catholic Heroes and Saints throughout History*, By Amy Welborn and Vitali Konstantinov
- *Becket Wants to be a Priest*, by Matt & Stephanie Regitz
- *Molly McBride and the Purple Habit*, by Jean Schoonover-Egolf
- *The Story of Saint John Paul II: A Boy Who Became Pope* by Fabiola Garza
- *I'm a Saint in the Making*, by Lisa M. Hendey and Katie Broussard
- *Becoming Father Bob*, by Peggy Wertz and Jeffrey Kirby
- *Where do Priests Come From?* By Elizabeth Ficocelli and Cheryl Dickow
- *Wee Believers Fr. Juan Pablo and Sr. Mary Clara Vocation Doll & Book on*  
[AMAZON](#)
- *Florence Nightingale's Nuns*, by Emmeline Garnett and Anne Marie Jauss
- *I am God's Storyteller*, by Lisa Hendey



- **Manipulatives:**

- My Pop Out Mass Kit found at <https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/my-mass-pop-up-kit> (\$16.99)  
Check out this fun video [LET'S PLAY MASS WITH FR. TIM](#) using this resource
- Wooden Mass Kit Playsets found at <https://shininglightdolls.com/products/wooden-mass-kit-playset> (\$64.99) or check out ETSY, or a plush set found at <https://weebelievers.com/products/my-mass-kit-catholic-play-set>
- Wee Believers Fr. Juan Pablo and Sr. Mary Clara Vocation Dolls & Books found at <https://weebelievers.com/products/father-juan-pablo-catholic-priest-vocation-doll> and <https://weebelievers.com/products/sister-mary-clara-catholic-nun-vocation-doll>



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