



Diocese of Madison

Vocation Lesson Plan One

4-6

Vocation Lesson Objective:

Students will identify gifts and talents in others and in themselves.

Students will apply their gifts and talents to be followers of Jesus by generating a plan that uses their gifts and talents as tools of service to others.

Materials:

Holy cards of saints or pictures of famous people

Copies of Vocations Gift Worksheet

Procedure:

1. This lesson may be introduced by presenting students with pictures of saints or famous people with whom they might be familiar. Ask them to name talents and gifts which they see and respect in others. As students name gifts and talents, list them on the board.
2. After a considerable list has been made, ask the students to take a few moments to consider which talents they see in themselves.
3. Ask the students to complete the first three boxes in the Gift Worksheet. (“Some of my gifts are...,” “The gift I like best is...,” “One gift I want to develop is...”)
4. After the worksheet has been completed, discuss the following concepts with the students:
 - We are all uniquely different from each other. God has given us different gifts and talents. Many of us may have the same talents, but because of other talents and the combination of these, we are different.
 - Through our Baptism, we are given the gift of being a child of God and called to be a disciple of Jesus. Each of us is also called to follow Him in a special way through our personal vocation. Our gifts and talents will be used by the Lord as we live out that vocation. By using our talents we come to know and love Jesus more and more and we also make the world we live in a better place.
5. Ask the students to reflect on the Gift Worksheet and on what has been presented. Invite them to consider how God might use each gift they listed in the possible vocation He may call them to. Add these to Box 4 of the Gift Worksheet.



Diocese of Madison

Vocation Lesson Plan Two

4-6

Vocation Lesson Objective:

Students will understand how the saints were ready to be what the Lord called them to be.
Students will recognize the various vocations in the different Christian states of life.

Materials:

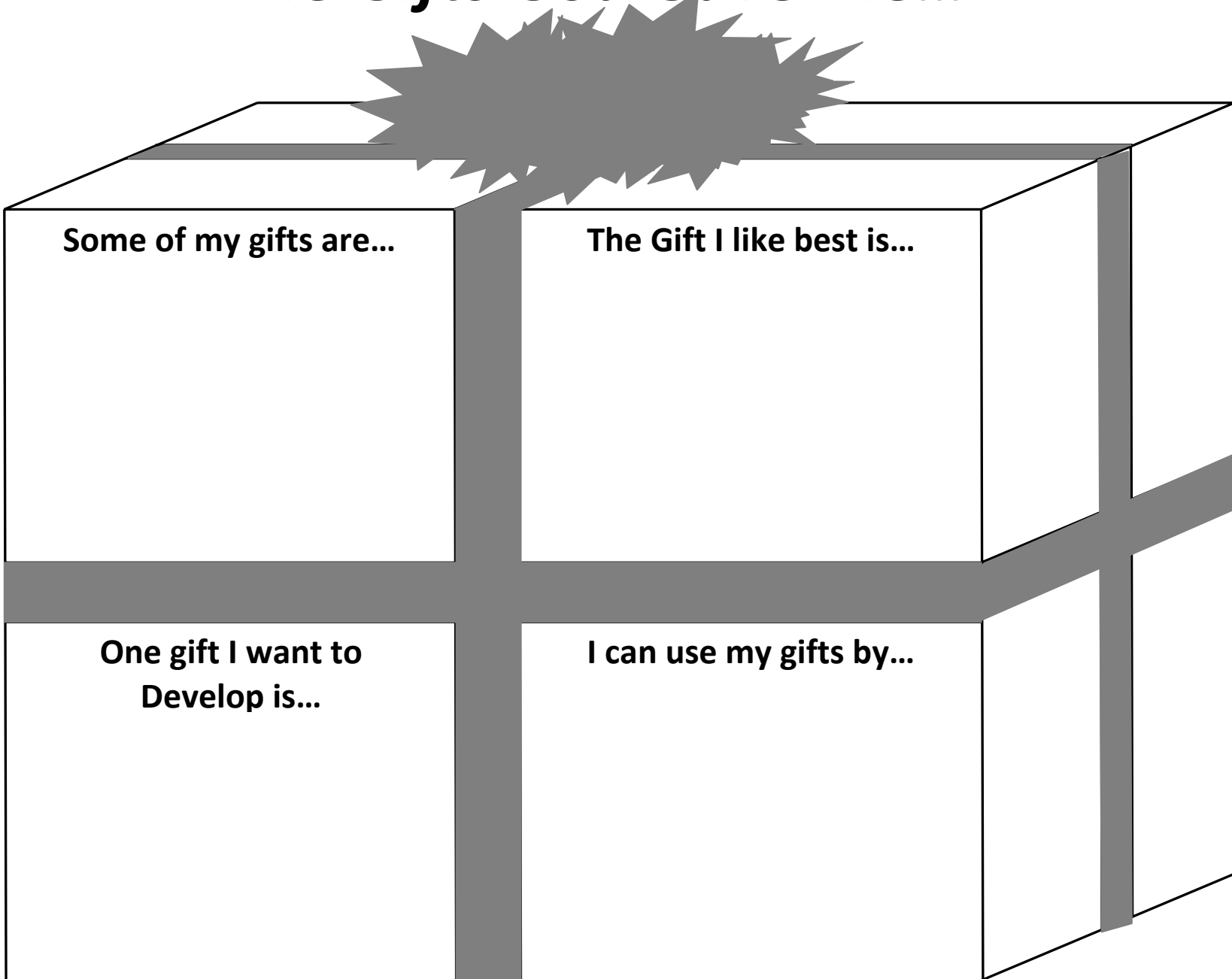
Stories of saints who were married, who were priests, who were consecrated religious and who were consecrated lay persons living in the world. Some good examples are St. Joseph, St. Louis, St. Jane de Chantal, St. John Vianney, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Martin de Porres, St. Catherine of Siena, and Blessed Pierre Frassati.

Copies of *Hear the Call Word Search Worksheet*

Procedure:

1. Have ready short biographies of saints from different states in life. The children could be asked to do this for homework to share in class.
2. Read aloud a sampling of the different saints.
3. Consider how God called them each to become holy in their particular vocation.
4. What special virtues did God help each of them grow in through their vocations? Use some of the words from the *Hear the Call Word Search Worksheet*.
5. Distribute the *Hear the Call Word Search Worksheets* to complete.

The Gifts God Gave Me...



A 3D box with a starburst on top, divided into four quadrants for a worksheet. The quadrants contain the following text:

<p>Some of my gifts are...</p>	<p>The Gift I like best is...</p>
<p>One gift I want to Develop is...</p>	<p>I can use my gifts by...</p>

Hear The Call Word Search

servant
faithful
acceptable
power
announce
unique
commit
vows
toil

obedience
marry
price
talent
Jesus
Love
Bell
True
Alive

chosen
appointed
anointed
baptism
beloved
called
sister
valour

chastity
choice
zeal
goal
faith
sign
stands
best

endowed
covenant
Holy Spirit
fire
favoured
vocation
priest
agree

celibate
life
longing
seek
hope
send
lead
speech

N	S	P	G	P	A	L	I	V	E	T	N	E	L	A	T	T
D	G	R	R	P	V	A	N	N	O	U	N	C	L	B	S	L
D	N	I	G	N	O	L	G	F	G	W	G	H	L	E	V	N
J	C	E	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	I	S	O	B	L	N	Y
E	E	S	S	E	C	I	O	H	C	N	S	S	A	L	O	T
S	T	T	D	E	T	N	I	O	P	P	A	E	T	L	I	I
U	A	L	C	H	C	T	Z	B	E	L	Z	N	P	F	T	T
S	B	N	F	A	I	T	H	E	E	R	G	A	E	A	A	S
O	I	U	L	M	Q	E	C	A	N	L	N	L	C	V	C	A
B	L	L	M	S	R	H	D	H	D	N	O	O	C	O	O	H
E	E	O	S	I	S	T	E	R	O	L	A	V	A	R	V	C
D	C	V	F	T	O	I	L	I	W	S	R	E	E	E	L	E
I	N	E	R	P	M	X	N	L	E	D	E	E	D	D	F	K
E	D	U	V	A	S	T	A	N	D	S	R	N	W	I	H	E
N	E	E	R	B	E	T	I	R	I	P	S	Y	L	O	H	E
C	M	R	A	D	E	B	E	U	Q	I	N	U	P	M	P	S
E	Y	B	R	L	M	Z	O	Q	W	Y	P	E	M	J	O	G



Diocese of Madison

Office of Vocations

Intermediate Grades 4-6 Lesson Plan/Vocations talk

Theme: *Come, Follow Me!*

Purpose:

Students will:

1. Understand the meaning of the word *discernment*.
2. Understand how to discern their vocations.
3. Develop a plan to discern their vocations.

Supplies:

1. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC #2803-2854)
2. Prayers for Discernment (choose one to pray at the beginning of each class)
3. Fishers of Men Supporting Documents

Activity #1: Defining *discernment*

1. Introduce the word *discernment*: **prayerfully thinking about a decision one must make, bringing into account the will of God.**
2. Teachers: Discuss each part of this definition in detail; use the questions as a guide; use the *Catechism* to add more depth to the conversation where possible.
 - a) Prayerful:
 - i. How do we pray?
 - 1) Formal prayer: prayers established by the Church and saints.
 - 2) Spontaneous prayer: prayers made up on the spot with your own words.
 - 3) Ask for help from God.
 - 4) Read the Bible.
 - 5) Listen for response from God.

- 6) Pay attention to the feelings you have when you pray.
- 7) Thanksgiving for the time God has given you in prayer.
- 8) Read something written by or about a saint/pope/priest/sister/brother.

ii. Where do we pray?

- 1) In Church: before the Mass begins quietly; with the congregation during Mass.
- 2) In School: to yourself or as a class.
- 3) At Home: in the morning as you start your day; at meals with your family; at night before you go to bed.

iii. Why do we pray?

- 1) God knows us better than we know ourselves: He made us!
- 2) God always wants what is best for us and wants to tell us what that is.
- 3) Praying gives us peace of mind.

b) Thinking: actually stopping and thinking; not acting first and then thinking.

c) Decision one must make:

- i.** What are these decisions?
- ii.** How often do they arrive?
- iii.** What decisions have you made in your life that you should have taken more time to think about?

d) Bringing into account:

- i.** What does this mean? How much importance should it have?

e) Will of God:

- i.** What does God want me to do?
- ii.** When should I do what God wants?
- iii.** What does God say about the things I want to do or have done?

Activity #2: Defining the Steps

1. Discerning your vocation:

a) Prayer:

- i.** Usually asking God to make clear the path He wants you to take.
- ii.** Time: take time to allow God to speak to your heart.

- ii. Many times we don't know what we are responding to.
- iii. Do what you think is required of the vocation you are feeling.
 - 1) Pray even more
 - 2) Help people in any way you can
 - 3) Focus on your studies
 - 4) Start serving at Mass

Activity #3: Defining Your Life

- 1. Plan your discernment path:
 - a) Have the children fill out their plan to discern their vocation for one week.
 - b) Send the worksheets home with the children and have them follow the directions to finish the assignment.

Activity #4: Defining the Priesthood

- 1. Show "Fishers of Men" DVD
 - a) Discuss reactions to the video.

Qualities of the Priest

1. After viewing the priests and seminarians in this film, what important characteristics are necessary in a candidate for the priesthood?
2. "A priest is a man of prayer." Why is prayer vital for a priest's life?
3. One young person said, "They are like teachers for us." How are priests like teachers? Healers? Leaders? Servants?
4. Why do you have to be a 'real man' to be a priest?
5. What sustains a priest in his vocation?

Ministry of the Priest

6. What were the different ministries you saw in the film? In what ways is priestly ministry lived out through this diocese/community?
7. What did the priest do for the victim in the accident scene?
8. This film had many images of the Eucharist. Why is the Eucharist so essential to priesthood?
9. Why would it be humbling for a priest to say "This is my Body" and "This is my Blood"?
10. What ways do priests bring people to Jesus Christ and vice versa?
11. What does it mean for a priest to be the *alter Christus* ('other Christ')?
12. One priest said, "It is an opportunity to stand for change, to effect change, in any part of the world, the Catholic priesthood is an instrument for change that the world needs today." How can the priest effect change in the world? How is the Catholic priesthood an instrument for change?
13. What 'mysteries of God' does a priest encounter/administer?
14. One seminarian in the film indicated that it is 'supernatural' to be a priest. What powerful gifts does a priest have?
15. "What most people go through in a lifetime, priests can experience in a day." How can this happen?

16. The priesthood has been a part of the Church since its beginning. How has the priest's role changed through time? In what ways is the role the same? How have the challenges changed or stayed the same?
17. What does it mean to be "fishers of men" in our modern day?
18. "Fishers of men" is one image of priesthood or discipleship. What are some other images of priesthood?
19. Jesus called fishermen, not the wisest or richest. Do you think they could have imagined what they would accomplish?

Vocations in the Present Culture

20. "Who is going to give the sacraments for the next generation?"
21. In what ways do you think that the priesthood is important for our world today?
22. In what ways is our culture counter to the Gospel? How can we transform this culture?
23. What are some of the difficulties in answering the call of God in this culture?
24. "There are probably guys who are being called and are not hearing it." Do you think this is true? What sorts of things might drown out God's call?
25. "We need men who are willing to give up their lives for Jesus Christ... now." Why does the world need priests? Why is there a sense of urgency?
26. There was a priest in the film who was both a professional baseball player and an actor, both sought-after professions in our culture. How do you think society views his change in vocations? How do you view it?

Pope John Paul II: "Be Not Afraid"

27. "Do not be afraid." What do you think people today are most afraid of? Why is it important not to be afraid when following Christ?
28. Name all the Popes you saw in the film. What is apostolic succession? How does it relate to being 'fishers of men'?
29. What great messages did John Paul II give young people?
30. Did you ever attend World Youth Day? What did you experience?
31. "The world needs heroes." Who are today's heroes in your eyes? What do they proclaim, and what message do they have for us? Compare and contrast this with the priest.

Priesthood and Sacrifice

32. "The priesthood is a life of sacrifice, a life of service." What does this mean to you?
33. Does the thought of being a priest or religious bring up any fears? Do you think that the apostles had any fears or apprehensions? About what?
34. What things do you value in your life or hope for in your future that you feel you would have to sacrifice to follow this call to follow Christ?
35. Priesthood is a life of sacrifice. Why is this sacrifice so joy-filled for a priest?
36. A priest in the film says that priests have to 'give up their lives' for Jesus Christ'. What does this mean? What, specifically, does a priest have to give up? Do you think his life can be fulfilling or joy-filled even without these things?
37. What does celibacy mean to you? Why do you think a priest makes a vow of celibacy? How can celibacy be viewed as a gift?
38. Loneliness is a common concern for those discerning a priestly vocation. Did the priests in the film seem lonely to you? Why or why not?

Discernment Questions

39. Can you relate to anyone you saw in this film?
40. What gifts do you have that could serve the Church?
41. Name some good priests whom you want to be like. What about them made you think so?
42. Every Christian has a vocation. What is a vocation, and what are some ways to discern a vocation more clearly?
43. Have you ever thought that God was calling you to become a priest? In what ways?
44. How is the Catholic priesthood meaningful for you?
45. What draws you to the Catholic priesthood?
46. If you have felt called by God for this vocation, what obstacles prevent you from following that call?
47. Do you know someone who you think would be a good priest? Have you mentioned this to him? Has anyone mentioned this to you? If so, what did you think and how did you respond?
48. What gifts do you see in priests you know? Which of these gifts do you recognize in yourself or your friends? Can you see yourself sharing these gifts with others?
49. Why is silence important when discerning a vocation from God?
50. The vocation story in the film ends with the young boy one day becoming a priest. What do you think inspired him?