



Diocese of Madison

Vocation Lesson Plan One

9-12

Purpose:

1. To help students come to a realization that they have been called by God to undertake a specific and unique mission in their lives.
2. For the students to see in episodes of the Scriptures that the response to God's invitation is not always easy to accomplish, that there must be some sacrifice.
3. To use these episodes from the Scriptures to help the students recognize the difference between the questions: "What do I want to do?" versus "What does God want me to do?"

Activity: Daily Spiritual Journals

We all want to be happy. At the end of our lives, we all have a hope that we have made a contribution to the betterment of the human race. As we grow, we are often asked "What do you want to do when you grow up?" As children, the answer is often, "I want to be a firefighter or a policeman, or a doctor." These early impressions are often filled with an idealistic impression and a hope to be a hero and save the world. As you hit high school and start to look at college and a career, that idealism starts to be replaced by a realism of college costs, admission tests, and your ability to find success in your chosen career field.

The question that we are asked, however, is often reversed from what it should be. If we truly want to be happy, instead of asking the question: "What do *I* want to do?" The question should be: "What does *God* want me to do?" If God has created each one of us uniquely while we were still in our mother's womb, He knows better than we do how we are designed and what will lead us to true happiness.

In each story below, there is a tension between what the main character desires to do versus what God desires them to do. When they follow their own designs, they are met with frustrations and difficulties. When they follow where God is leading, they are met with success and peace.

For each day listed read the assigned episode from Scripture and write a page journal entry in response to the question asked. Teachers should check to see that the students have completed the journals. (Be aware that this activity is not meant to fill the entire class time and should be supplemented with other material which encourages the discernment process.)

Monday: **Jonah 1:1- 3:10, *The Story of Jonah***

- In what ways have you struggled to follow how Christ is calling you to follow after Him?

Tuesday: **Matthew 19:16-22, *The Rich Young Man***

- What talents has God given to you that He is asking you to share with the world?

Wednesday: **Luke 10:38-42, *Mary and Martha***

- In what ways have you put the needs of this world before the needs of Christ?

Thursday: **John 4:4-30, *Jesus and the Woman at the Well***

- How have you felt the profound love and forgiveness of Christ in your life?

Friday: **Acts 10:9-23, *Peter's Vision***

- How has Jesus challenged you to go beyond your area of comfort to follow where He leads?



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Vocation Lesson Plan Two

9-12

Purpose:

1. To help students come to a realization that they have been called by God to undertake a specific and unique mission in their lives.
2. For the students to see in video “Fishers of Men” that the response to God’s invitation is not always easy to accomplish, that there must be some sacrifice.
3. To use this video to help the students recognize the difference between the questions: “What do I want to do?” versus “What does God want me to do?”

Activity:

Watch the Video “Fishers of Men” (Copy can be ordered from Diocesan Media Center or can be viewed online at www.madisondiocese.org click on Vocations and go down towards the bottom of the page.

Questions:

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 or religious life, be it for men or women?
2. “A priest is a man of prayer.” Why is prayer vital for anyone’s life?
3. One young person said, “They are like teachers for us.” How are priests and men and women religious like teachers? Healers? Leaders? Servants?
4. Why do you have to be a ‘real man’ to be a priest?
5. What sustains a priest or religious in their 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 religious life 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 live for Jesus Christ... now.” Why does the world need priests and men and women religious? 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? NCYC? Youth 2000? Steubenville Conference? 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?

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 and religious life is a life of sacrifice. Why is this sacrifice so joy-filled?
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 religious 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 or sisters 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, sister, nun or monk? In what ways?
44. How is the Catholic priesthood meaningful for you?
45. What draws you to the Catholic priesthood or religious life?
46. If you have felt called by God for a religious vocation, what obstacles prevent you from following that call?
47. Do you know someone who you think would be a good priest or sister? Have you mentioned this to them? 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 and sisters 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?

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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.

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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?
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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?
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Vocations Jeopardy Game

Below is a list of possible questions for a Jeopardy Review game. The object of this game is not only to have fun, but also to challenge the youth to think more openly about various vocations. The answer to each question is found in the parentheses at the end of each question. Feel free to use the questions in any order as some are admittedly more difficult than others. Good luck and have fun!

Which Vocation...?

- In one day I can celebrate every aspect of a person's life. (Priest)
- I spend a lot of time volunteering at soup kitchens and nursing homes. (Single person or Parent)
- I would give my life for the ones I love. (All vocations)
- One of the key parts of my vocation is to raise children to try to become saints. (Parent)
- We take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as well as a vow of service (Sister of Mercy)
- By remaining chaste, my relationship with God increases. (All vocations)
- We are an order of preachers created by St. Domenic. (Dominicans)
- People with my vocation spend several hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament and pray the Liturgy of the Hours 5 times per day. (Priest)
- In my vocation, I live in community with my fellow members. (Sister or Brother)
- In responding to my vocation, I choose to travel to inner cities, reservations, and minister to people in needy situations all over the world. (Missionary sister, brother or priest)
- I may be married and my ministry is of service to Word, Altar and Charity. (Permanent Deacon)
- I live in community with a Superior and take a vow of poverty, chastity and obedience. (Brother)
- My life may involve living in a rectory or working in an office. (Priest)
- My family often invites me to dinner, but doesn't live with me. (Priest)
- My spouse and I are responsible for the spiritual development of our children. (Parent)

Bible Stories

- At the age of 75, I took my wife, Sarah, to a land specified by God to create a new nation. (Abraham or Abram)
- In the book of Exodus, I led the chosen people of God out of Egypt into the Promised Land and passed down the 10 Commandments despite not being a good public speaker (Moses).
- I followed the will of God despite great ridicule from my family, friends and community. I saved the human race from extinction in the Great Flood. (Noah)
- I am said to have written nearly half of the Psalms. I was also the youngest son of Jesse and became King of Israel. (Daniel)
- We were three brothers thrown into a white-hot furnace for failing to worship the gods of King Nebuchadnezzar. None of us suffered any injury and thereby the King was converted. (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

- I was a wealthy land owner and God allowed Satan to test me to the extreme, but I never lost faith in God and for my faith, God gave everything back to me two-fold. (Job)
- Which prophet reported that God said, “If a virtuous man turns away from virtue and does wrong when I place a stumbling block before him, he shall die. He shall die for his sin, and his virtuous deeds shall not be remembered; but I will hold you responsible for his death if you did not warn him.” Jeremiah, Hosea, Isaiah or Ezekiel (Ezekiel)
- You know me as Peter, but I had a different name before Jesus called me to be one of his apostles. What was my name? (Simon)
- This word means “messenger” or, literally, “one who is sent away” and, according to Christian tradition, refers to any missionary who was sent to preach the word of God. (Apostle)
- According to Jesus it is easier for what to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven? (a Camel)
- If we are to have the best life, what should we seek after first? (Kingdom of God)
- I chose the better part when I sat at Jesus’ feet and listened him speak when he came to our house. (Mary)
- “Whoever comes after me must deny himself,” and what two other things? (Take up his cross and follow me)
- When does Jesus struggle with his own vocation? (In the Garden on the Mount of Olives before he was betrayed)
- After fasting for 40 days in the desert, what temptations were presented to Jesus by Satan? (turn this stone to bread, worship me and you will receive power over all the nations of the world, and throw yourself off this parapet and you will be saved by the angels)

Popular Prayers

- This is the Latin name for the Hail Mary? (Ave Maria)
- This person first prayed the Our Father? (Jesus: teaching the disciples to pray)
- The Salve Regina (Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy...) is most often prayed as part of this. (the Rosary)
- When praying the Rosary, this many Hail Mary’s are prayed after the first Our Father. (3)
- We pray this Creed during Mass. (Nicene)
- Complete this line: St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of _____. (the devil)
- This prayer is said in the morning, at noon and in the evening throughout the year and focuses on the Incarnation of Christ. (Angelus)
- “Blessed be God” is the first line of what prayer said during Benediction? (Divine Praises)
- This prayer, also prayed at Benediction, is most often chanted as a hymn and is actually part of a longer hymn written by St. Thomas Aquinas. (Tantum Ergo)
- What three prayers are said at each of the large beads on the Rosary? (Our Father, Glory Be, and O My Jesus)
- This popular devotion has as its image a picture of Jesus with both a white and red light shining from his heart and the words “Jesus, I trust in You” are written below. (Divine Mercy Chaplet)
- In an Act of Contrition we say three things to God: We acknowledge our sins; ask God for forgiveness; and what else? (Promise to change our ways so as not to sin again)

- In this prayer you ask God to help you to accept the things you cannot change, to change the things you can, and to know the difference. (the Serenity Prayer)
- This prayer asks for someone to come watch over you and guide you throughout your life. (Guardian Angel Prayer or Angel of God)
- This prayer is the most frequently used sacramental, reminding us of our baptism, the Triune God and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. (Sign of the Cross)

Saints

- I'm the Apostle chosen by Christ to lead His Church. (St. Peter)
- Though I was German during WWII, a French bishop ordained me in the Nazi Concentration Camp at Dachau. (Blessed Karl Leisner)
- I struggled with my vocation to the priesthood but later was able to convert 40,000 Calvinists back to Catholicism. (St. Francis de Sales)
- I went from being an unimportant lay person to being Pope due to a dove landing on me during the papal election. (St. Fabian)
- I introduced monastic life and wrote the *Rule* that is still being used as an example for most monasteries today. My first followers tried to poison me. (St. Benedict)
- I introduced communal singing in the Church when my congregation was surrounded by soldiers who were ready to kill me and my parishioners. The singing spread to the soldiers who later dispersed. (St. Ambrose)
- The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared on my cloak when I carried roses in it to the bishop of my diocese. (St. Juan Diego)
- I once took care of Napoleon and his soldiers in my family's castle. He later gave me a place to set up my congregation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. (St. Magdalen of Canossa)
- At the age of 71, I set up a school in America for Indians. They called me "The Woman Who is Always Praying." (St. Rose Phillipine Duchesne)
- I founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People and donated all of my \$20 million to the betterment of these people. (Blessed Katherine Marie Drexel)
- I believed I had the call to the sisterhood, but I was rejected by two different orders before being asked to go to Canada, where I founded the Congregation of Notre Dame. (St. Marguerite Bourgeoys)
- After losing my husband, I continued to raise my children and established the first free Catholic schools in America in which to educate them. (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)
- I am known as the patroness of impossible causes. (St. Rita of Cascia)
- I am known as the patron saint of people who have lost items. (St. Anthony of Padua).
- I spent most of my life as a missionary in Ethiopia and my work of teaching all faiths about the goodness of God the Father anticipated the ecumenism discussion at the Second Vatican Council. (St. Liduina Meneguzzi)
- I was born in Liseaux France and am known as the "Little Flower." (St. Therese of Liseaux)
- Said to be young, athletic and handsome, I entered the priesthood with great enthusiasm for catechesis of young children and the Sacrament of Penance. I was martyred only three months after my ordination. (Blessed Ángel Darío Acosta Zurita)

Church's Teaching on Virtue

- All Catholics are called to which vocation. (divine beatitude or holiness)
- This helps all Catholics grow in virtue. (grace)
- If you sin, you must rely on this quality of God to help you return to a virtuous state. (Mercy)
- *This is a two part answer.* According to the Catechism, this is the natural desire of all human beings and it originates here. (Happiness; in God)
- The beatitude of what sets the standard for discernment in the use of earthly goods in keeping with the law of God. (heaven)
- This is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. (Freedom)
- Performing acts against God's will leads to this. (Slavery of sin)
- The morality of human acts depends on these three sources. (object, intention, and circumstances)
- This source cannot make good or right an action which is evil, but can mitigate its sinfulness. (Circumstance)
- *Two part answer.* This is the most fundamental passion. It is brought about by the attraction of this. (Love; the Good)
- Our Lord called this the source from which the passions spring. (man's heart)
- This is a judgment of reason by which the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. (Conscience)
- When a prudent man listens to his conscience, he may also hear this. (God speaking to him)
- These four virtues are known as the Cardinal Virtues. (Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance)
- Faith, Hope and Charity inform all the moral virtues and give them life. They are known, collectively, as these. (Theological Virtues)
- This has a tendency to reproduce itself and reinforce itself, but cannot destroy the moral sense at its root. (Sin)
- Sin is considered this type of act, but we have responsibility for the sin of others when we participate in them, order, advise or praise them, don't stop them, or protect the doers of them. (personal)
- Put this statement in your own words. "God created us without us: but he did not will to save us without us." (We did nothing to be created, but we must admit our faults in order to be saved.)
- This "requires convincing of sin": There must be an internal judgment of conscience, which becomes at the same time the start of a new grant of grace and love. (Conversion)
- In this sacrament we receive the grace of redemption. (Eucharist)

Parts of the Mass/Liturgy

- What do we call the "sermon" that the priest preaches during the Mass (homily)
- From which books are the Sunday Mass second readings taken from (New Testament)
- What Is the name of the Creed we recite during Sunday Liturgies (Nicene)
- What does Eucharist mean. (Thanksgiving)
- Name the 2 parts of the Mass (Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist)

- Mass begins and ends with this prayer (The sign of the cross)
- The priest changes the bread and wine into the _____ and _____ of Christ during the Consecration. (body, blood)
- The bread and wine are brought to the sanctuary during this part of the Mass (the presentation of the gifts)
- When we bless ourselves we ask the blessings of these 3 people who are actually one in the same. (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
- We are reminded of our baptism when we bless ourselves with this when we enter the Church. (holy water)
- The Lord's Prayer is also called this. (Our Father)
- May and October are dedicated to this person. (Mary)
- We acknowledge our sins and failures during this. (Penitential rite)
- The chair that is used by the celebrant during the Mass is called this. (presider's chair)
- Two books that are used during the celebration of the Mass are these. (Sacramentary, Book of the Gospel, Lectionary, hymnal)
- Holy Days/Liturgical Calendar
- This is based upon an entry in St. Faustina's diary stating that anyone who participates in the Mass and receives the sacraments of confession and Eucharist on this day is assured by Jesus of full remission of sins. (Divine Mercy Sunday)
- This is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus. (Christmas)
- We celebrate the fact the Mary was conceived without sin on this day. (Immaculate Conception)
- The last Sunday of the Liturgical year and the last Sunday in Ordinary time (Feast of Christ the King)
- Saints and martyrs are honored on this day which falls the day after Halloween (All Saints)
- The day that Jesus instituted the priesthood. (Holy Thursday)
- This day is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God (January 1)
- This feast is celebrated 40 days after Easter (Ascension)
- This is the day that begins the 40 days of Lent (Ash Wednesday)
- This feast is called Corpus Christi in Latin and celebrates the Eucharist (the Body and Blood of Christ)
- During Lent, what color are the priests' vestments (purple)
- This is the most important day in the year for Catholic Christians (Easter)
- This is called the season of waiting and anticipation for the coming of our Lord (Advent)
- We bless throats on this day (St. Blaise)
- This feast day is celebrated on December 6 and honors a Bishop who was kind and generous. (St. Nicholas)