



Diocese of Madison

Vocation Lesson Plans 1 and 2

K-3

Vocation Lesson One: Come follow Me!

- Objective:** To reinforce the reality that we are special in God's eyes and that we are called to follow Him through the gift of our baptism.
- Materials:** Copies of "*Come follow Me*" Worksheet
- Procedure:** Begin with a short prayer and a song like "I am special." Sitting in a circle, ask the children to tell what they know about baptism from their experiences, as well as facts about the sacrament. Teach them about the sacrament, especially that we become God's children and are part of God's family through this sacrament. Ask "Do you know anything about Jesus' baptism? How old was he? Where was he? Who was there with him?" Read/tell the story of Jesus' baptism from Luke 3:15-16, 21-22. Talk about how God the Father called him his beloved son. Discuss that they are beloved children too and especially blessed through baptism too. Remind them that God calls each of us to belong to him in a special way and to live the vocation he gives us. Follow with the "*Come follow Me*" worksheet.
- Activity:** Distribute "*Come follow Me*" worksheet. Ask students to draw their first name and color it. Make a yarn hanger. Invite them to hang it where it is a reminder that they are loved by God and that he has called them by name. Ask them to find out the date of their baptism and write it under their name so that they can remember the day they became his child.

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### **Vocation Lesson Two: By Our Actions We Bring Peace**

- Objective:** To teach that, like Jesus, our actions can bring peace to others.
- Materials:** Copies of "*We are called to share happiness*" Worksheet
- Procedure:** Ask students to sit quietly and tell them you are going to darken the room, light a candle and play peaceful instrumental music. Invite them to think about things people have done for them that made them happy as they listen to the music. After a few minutes, fade the music out and give them a chance to say how they felt and what they were thinking about during that time. Remind them that at Jesus' baptism, his Father told him that he was especially loved. Jesus remembered those words and he went out into the villages, telling others about God's love for them too. Jesus treated people in a kind way. Ask students to tell what Jesus did to show kindness to others. Ask "How do you think this made the people feel after Jesus did these things?" After they share, tell the children that his actions brought happiness and joy to the people who believed in him. Ask "In what ways can you bring happiness to others?" Let them give some suggestions. Remind them that when we sit quietly we can listen to God in our hearts and he helps us know how to share his joy with others. End with a prayer of your own or use these words: *Dear Jesus, help me to bring happiness to my world by my actions. Help me to be kind to others. Help me to play fairly. Help me to share your gifts with others. Thanks you, Jesus. Amen.*
- Activity:** Distribute "*We are called to share happiness*" Worksheet. Ask students to complete the sentence and illustrate their idea.



# Diocese of Madison

## Vocation Lesson Plan 3

K-3

### Purpose:

1. Students will understand the definition of a hero and the qualities that it takes to be a hero.
2. Students will be able to draw connections between 'superheroes' and the 'heroes' of the Catholic Church, the saints.
3. Students will start to understand the importance of knowing about Catholic saints.

### Supplies:

1. Crayons
2. Drawing paper
3. **The Story of St. Tarsicius**

### Activity #1: Who is your hero?

1. Have each student draw a picture of their favorite hero or their personal hero (these can be real people, comic book superheroes or superheroes that they make up).
2. On the back of their paper have them write three things that make that person a hero along with that person's super power (if it is a superhero).
3. Once the children have finished their drawings and their writing, ask the children to share the name of their hero as well as one of the qualities they wrote down. As they share their qualities, write them down on the board.

### Discussion:

1. Explain to the children that a hero is someone we look up to who can save us in times of need and who can show us what we should do when we get into difficult situations.
2. So, what makes a person a hero?
  - a. Often times, heroes have the same qualities about them. They are strong, happy, smart, and brave; they stand up for what they believe in, they put other people first, etc.
  - b. When a person does what is right no matter what happens to them, they are often considered heroes.
  - c. We should all want to strive for greatness as these heroes have done.

### Activity #2: Catholic Heroes

1. Tell the students that in the Catholic Church we have lots of people who we can admire and who can help us when we need it. They can help show us the way out of difficult situations and help us to make difficult decisions. These are the heroes of the Catholic Church called the Saints. They lived very good lives and gave us great examples of how to live our lives.
2. Read **The Story of St. Tarsicius** (For a song about St. Tarsicius visit [www.ewtn.com/ewtnkids/home.asp](http://www.ewtn.com/ewtnkids/home.asp) and click on the Faith Factory. Follow the arrow to the Radio Room and find "Tarsicius" on the Song List. You can listen to the song and print the lyrics for your students as well.)

**This story is adapted excerpt from pages 73-74 of *Saints for Every Occasion* by Thomas J. Craughwell**

Tarsicius (who was about 16 years old) had been given the important job of bringing the Blessed Sacrament to Christians in prison. Although it was a dangerous job, the Roman priests believed a boy visiting prisoners would be less dangerous than a man.

On the road outside the walls of Rome, Tarsicius met a group of people who did not believe in Christianity. They could see that he was holding something hidden under his clothes, but when they

asked, "What do you have there?" Tarsicius, knowing what they wanted to do, refused to tell them or show them what he was carrying.

Someone in the crowd then got really mad and started hurting Tarsicius as he shouted, "Show us your secret!" Still he refused, and now the whole crowd was mad and they all started to bully Tarsicius so he fell to the ground, face down, still protecting the Blessed Sacrament. He held onto the Blessed Sacrament until the crowd had killed him.

After he died, many people in the mob rolled him over. They opened Tarsicius' hands and searched his clothes but they found nothing. The Blessed Sacrament, which the boy had been carrying, had disappeared!

The Christians of Rome picked up the martyr's body and buried it in a tomb that was not far from the place where he had been killed.

### **St. Tarsicius is the Patron Saint of First Communicants**

- a. Invite the students to identify the things that St. Tarsicius did which makes him a hero.
- b. How can this story help us in our lives?
- c. For second and third graders, why do you think St. Tarsicius did not want the pagans to get the Eucharist? *Hints can be found in the song from EWTN Kids.*

### **Discussion:**

1. St. Tarsicius is just one of thousands of heroes that the Catholic Church wants us to look up to. Each and every one of these thousands of people did great things in their lives and the Catholic Church wants us to see that.
2. We look at their examples when we are faced with decisions or tough tasks in our lives. When we know how they would act, it helps us to make the right decision.
3. When we know more about these people who lived good lives and the eternal rewards they received, then we will also want to be like them and receive the rewards ourselves.
  - a. How many of you want to win the World Series when you get older?
  - b. How many of you can't wait to win the Super Bowl?
  - c. How many of you wish you were just like Kobe Bryant or LeBron James on the basketball court; or Chad Johnson or Carson Palmer on the football field?
    - i. All of these people have the ability to do great things and still their treasure cannot go with them after they die. When we try to be like the great heroes of the Catholic Church like St. Padre Pio, St. Peter, St. Paul, etc. then we can take our prize all the way to heaven.
    - ii. That is what God wants us to do.

### **Further Suggestions:**

1. Have each child give a short report on their patron saint or a saint that they really like. Have them include pictures of that saint with their report.
2. Create lesson plans around the stories found in *Loyola Kids Book of Heroes* (ISBN: 082941584X) by Amy Welborn.
3. Hold a monthly prayer writing contest which asks each student to write a prayer that invokes the intercession of the patron saint of the school or a popular saint. The winning prayer will be prayed at the beginning of each school day for a month.
4. Find the patron saints of classroom subjects (e.g. Science, Math, Social Studies/History, etc.) and pray for their intercession right before tests in those subjects.
5. Celebrate All Saints Day with treats and saints costumes. Give out awards for most authentic costume or person with most knowledge about the saint they are trying to portray.
6. Utilize the lesson plans from both 2007 and 2008 Vocation Awareness Weeks throughout the year.



**Come, follow Me!**

**You,** *(Draw your name and color it.)*

**“You are my beloved child. You are special in my eyes.  
Come and follow me.”**

***We are called to share happiness***



**I can help Jesus bring joy to the world by:**

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**This is a picture of me bringing happiness to my world.**



# Diocese of Madison

## Office of Vocations

*Primary Grades 1-3 Vocations talk/Lesson Plan*

**Theme: *Come Follow Me!***

**Purpose:**

1. Students will begin to understand the concepts of *discernment* and *God's will*.
2. Students will begin to identify the relationship between discernment and God's will.
3. Students will understand how to apply the process of discernment to their own experiences.

**Supplies:**

1. Bible

**Activity#1: Introduce the Word Discernment**

1. Give the children the definition: base your definition on the age of the children
  - a) Grade 1: Discernment means making choices. When we make choices we have to think about what is best for us and we have to listen to people who know what is best for us. Who do you think helps us make good choices? (Take one or two responses) Good, we listen to grownups because they know what is best for us. God also knows what is best for us, so we also have to think about what God wants for us.
  - b) Grade 2: Discernment means thinking before we make important choices. Important choices are called decisions. When we make decisions we have to do two things. First, we need to listen to what God says is best for us. How do we know what God wants? (take one or two responses) Right, God speaks through people we know, like our parents and teachers. Then we need to think about why it feels like the right choice even if it is not the most fun choice. God knows what is best for you and wants your life to be

great. This is what we call God's will. By listening to God's will, we can be the happiest we can be.

c) Grade 3: Discernment is how we decide what is best for our lives. There are five important steps:

1. Asking (for help to make the right decisions)
  2. Praying (to God to guide your decisions)
  3. Listening (to God and to other people)
  4. Waiting (for help and for God to answer your prayers) and
  5. Doing (after the first four steps it is time to make the choice to do God's will)
2. Ask: What choices do you have to make each day? How do you make important decisions like what to eat and what to wear every day? Do you have to listen to your parents? What happens when you don't listen to your parents?

### **Activity #2: The Story of Jonah: An example of God's will**

1. Tell the story of Jonah (Jonah 1:1- 3:10).
2. Discuss the story:
  - a) Make sure to discuss the way in which Jonah denied the Lord's call and tried to run away, but was rewarded when he followed God's will.
  - b) Who is God like in this story? Parent, friend, ruler?
  - c) What happened when Jonah tried to run away?
  - d) What happened when he accepted God's will (what God wanted him to do)?
  - e) How did he talk to God? How can we talk to God?