

Archdiocese of Philadelphia - Vocation Awareness Week Unit Plan

Title of unit: Vocation Awareness

Grade level: Second Grade

Approximate time needed for unit completion: 1 week

Proposed Start Date: Monday of Vocation Awareness Week

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DESIRED RESULTS

Established Goals/Content Standards:

- Second Grade Religion Guidelines

Enduring Understandings:

Overarching: As children of God and members of His Church, we all have a special calling to do and God's plan to follow.

Topical: All people have a special call from God that they received at Baptism and the Sacraments help us to live out God's plan.

Essential Questions:

- What is faith?
- What is the Bible?
- Who is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit?
- What is the Body of Christ?
- What are the sacraments?
- What is worship?
- Why did God create us?
- What is sanctifying grace?

Unit Questions:

- What is religious life?
- Who are lay people?
- What is the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation?
- What is the Sacrament of Eucharist?
- What is the Sacrament of Penance and absolution?
- What is the Sacrament of Holy Orders?
- Who is a bishop?
- Who is a priest?
- Who is a deacon?
- What is the Sacrament of Matrimony?
- How can the sacraments help me to live my life as a follower of Jesus?

Student Objectives/Learning Activity Outcomes/I can...

1. I can participate in a conversation about the 7 sacraments and how they give graces to help me live out God's plan.
2. I can explore how to use the gifts I'm given by the Holy Spirit.
3. I can realize that some men and women want to follow Jesus by dedicating their lives to doing Jesus' work in a special way.
4. I know that clergy are bishops, priests, and deacons that have received the Sacrament of Holy orders and they serve the whole Church.
5. I can understand that absolution is the forgiveness of sins by God through the words and actions of a priest.
6. I can identify that baptized men that are consecrated as bishops, priests, or deacons are serving the church and received the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
7. I can differentiate between a bishop, priest and deacon.
8. I can define the Sacrament of Matrimony or Marriage as a baptized man and baptized woman make a lifelong promise to love each other and serve the Church as a married couple.
9. I can realize that some people do not receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders but still follow Jesus every day by what they do and say and we call them lay people.
10. I can decide how God wants me to use the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit.
11. I can identify that only a priest can lay his hands and pray for absolution and God's absolution.
12. I can identify that only a priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel, helps us understand what we hear in the Bible and through the power of the Holy Spirit the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Christ.

ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE

*Assessment evidence should correlate with **Student Objectives/Learning Activity Outcome/I can...** above.*

Performance Tasks:

1. Students write down one of their special gifts from God on an index card. Place all index cards in a decorated gift box. Randomly draw cards from the gift box and invite students to tell how they can use the gift read aloud to help others and follow their vocation.
2. Students will write about a Saint that you've taught them about. Have them write in their journal about the way a saint followed the path that God had chosen for them.
3. Have the students close their eyes and imagine that they are one of the disciples at the Last Supper with Jesus. Ask which disciple would you be? Where are you sitting? What do you see Jesus doing? What do you hear Jesus saying? What would you say? Have the students share orally or write in their journals- assess for understanding.
4. Make Jesus is Knocking at the door of your heart doorknob decorations. Copy picture on cardstock, color, cut and fold. Students can take home to hang on their door.

Other Evidence:

1. Student's ability to gradually incorporate faith knowledge in class discussions.
2. Answering of comprehension questions.
3. Participation in prayer.

Final Assessment: Students will choose one sacrament. Write and tell about how the sacrament helps a Child of God to follow the path that God has chosen for them.

MATERIALS and RESOURCES

- Decorated Gift Box, Saint Story books, Picture of the Last Supper

LEARNING PLAN

*Learning activities should correlate with **Student Objectives/Learning Activity Outcome/I can... above.***

Lesson 1 – (LAO # 1,2, 10) Intro to sacraments – Concentration on Baptism**Monday**

1. Ask the students to name the 7 sacraments and ask them what Sacrament have they received and what sacraments will they be receiving this year. Tell the students that the sacraments help us to live out the plan that God has for us.
2. Discuss the sacrament of Baptism, ask what they know about it, if they've been to a siblings Baptism, what does a priest do, who baptized them, etc...
3. Teach that at Baptism, God gave each of us a special mission- a calling to live as holy people with a vocation, and we will find out what our vocation is as we grow in our faith. As a member of God's family, we are called to live as holy people in one of the following ways: Married, Religious Sisters or Brothers or as Priests or Deacons. Explain a little about religious life and lay people and difference.
4. Teach the students that through the sacrament of 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 vocation. Our gifts and talents will be used to help us live out our vocation. By using our talents, we come to know and love Jesus more and more and make the world a better place.
5. Have a student read from 1 Corinthians. Write it on chalkboard, white board, Smartboard-
 - a. There are different gifts, but one Spirit.
 - b. The Spirit gives all these gifts so that we can use them to do good things.
6. Have students reflect on the gifts that they've been given. Invite them to consider how God might use each gift they have and the possible vocation that God may call them to. Ask questions like: What kind of things can you do well? What are you happy at doing? What good things can we do for God with our gifts? What is God's purpose for our life? Remind them that a vocation is different than what we want to be when we grow up. Have them write down one of their gifts on an index card. Place all index cards in a decorated gift box. Randomly draw cards from the gift box and invite students to tell how they can use the gift read aloud to help others and follow their vocation.

Optional Activity for Integration : Video of The Legend of Three Trees

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktYroQP5A1c> a video of the book The Three Trees that helps illustrate to trust in God's plan for us and that sometimes the dreams we have for ourselves are much smaller than the dreams God has for us.

Lesson 2 – (LAO # 2, 9,10) Confirmation, the Saints, and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit Tuesday

1. Invite a newly confirmed student to visit your class and speak to the children in very simple terms about the process of Confirmation (perhaps talk about the Confirmation retreat, service experiences, how they felt that day, and what it means to be a confirmed member of the Catholic Church).
2. Teach the students about bishops. Ask if anyone has ever met a bishop, show pictures of our bishops and explain that a bishop is a priest who received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. He leads and serves in a diocese. Tell the student that the bishop leads the celebration of Confirmation. Describe the actions of a bishop during Confirmation and tell the students that Bishops have a special calling from God.
3. Discuss that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant to be shared. The Holy Spirit strengthens us to live as Children of God. Tell the students that they will be learning about some saints who used their gifts to help the Church and be a light in the world. Remind the students that we are all called to be saints. Pope Francis said, "To be Saints is not a privilege for the few but a vocation for everyone."
4. Share with the students some stories of Saints (use a book of saints you already have). Share some stories of consecrated religious, saints who were married and lay persons living in the world. Some examples are: St. Joseph, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Martin de Porres, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Francis. Discuss how the saints used their gifts and were ready to be what the Lord called them to be. Example: Saint Catherine of Siena used her gift of wisdom to give advice and guidance and helped people make peace. St. Thomas Aquinas had the gift of knowledge and used it to write books about the Catholic faith. How did other saints use their gifts of The Holy Spirit? Here is a helpful list to match a saint with a Gift of the Holy Spirit:

Wisdom – Catherine of Siena

Understanding – Blessed Carlos Acutis

Counsel – Padre Pio

Fortitude – St. Monica, St. Gianna, St. Joan of Arc

Knowledge – St. Thomas Aquinas

Piety – Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, St. Francis

Fear of the Lord – St. Therese of Lisieux, Blessed Imelda, Blessed Chiara

5. Pray: Thank you Holy Spirit for the gifts you have given me. Help me to use my gifts to help others.
6. Think and discuss: How can I be like the Saints and use the gifts of wisdom, courage or knowledge to share God's love and help others?

Lesson 3 – (LAO # 4,5,11) John Vianney, Forgiveness, the Sacrament of Confession Wednesday

1. Ask for examples of ways to show kindness.
2. Introduce students to the story of Saint John Vianney. Remind them that a saint is a person who followed God's plan and Jesus' example. Saint John Vianney followed his vocation by becoming a priest and helped people to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Read the story of his life from a Child's Saint Book. Conclude that St. John Vianney followed his vocation and helped others follow God too. He is the patron saint of parish priests.

3. Remind the students that Jesus taught us to forgive over and over again. Ask students to tell about time that they forgave someone.
4. Teach that the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation helps us to make good choices and live as Children of God. We receive God's grace and the gift of peace. Ask students to describe a time when they were forgiven for doing something wrong and ask how it felt after they were forgiven?
5. Call on volunteers to name the 4 parts of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation: Confession, Contrition, Penance and Absolution. Discuss that through the words and actions of the priest we can tell that we've received God's forgiveness.
6. Teach students that when we confess our sins in the Sacrament of Penance we receive God's grace to live a holy life and we are at peace. When we are living the life of grace, we have been given the gift of peace and we must share that gift with others. This helps us discover our vocation and God's plan for us.
7. Say this prayer with your students:
 St. John Vianney called the priesthood "the love of the heart of Jesus."
 Dear God, help us keep Jesus close to our hearts as well.
 Help us to seek out Your grace in prayer and in the Sacraments.
 Thank you for those you have chosen to give us the sacraments- your priests.
 Bless the priest who baptized me, the priest that will absolve me from my sins, for the priest who will give me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion. Bless all the priests whose Masses have taught and instructed me. Dearest Jesus, keep all the priests close to Your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and eternity. Amen.

Optional- watch video on YouTube- **Video: A Week in the Life of a Priest**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbhZ9J0NxzU>

Lesson 4 – (LAO # 12)

Last Supper, Eucharist

Thursday

1. Set the scene for the story of the Last Supper by having the children look at a picture on Smartboard or from a book. Tell the students that at that meal, Jesus gave them a special gift.
2. Ask a volunteer to read the Eucharistic Prayer:
 - a. During the meal, Jesus took bread into his hands and said a blessing prayer. He broke the bread. Giving the bread to his disciples, Jesus said, "Take and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me." Jesus took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. Giving the cup of wine to his disciples, he said, "Drink it". They all drank from the cup. Jesus said, "This is my blood, which is poured out for many." Based on Luke 22:17-20.
3. Ask the children, who says the words of Jesus at Mass? Discuss that the priest says the words of Consecration and through these words of the priest and the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. At Communion, we receive the gift of Jesus himself. We receive the strength to live as his disciple and follow the path that God has chosen for us. How blessed we are for such a gift! Jesus is with us always!
4. Performance Task- Have the students close their eyes and imagine that they are one of the disciples at the Last Supper with Jesus. Ask which disciple would you be? Where are you sitting? What do you see

Jesus doing? What do you hear Jesus saying? What would you say? Have the students share orally or write in their journals- assess for understanding.

5. Conclude with prayer: You have blessed me O Lord with the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ. Teach me and help me to share my blessings. Help me to follow Your light and let it illuminate my path so I can answer the calling you have for me. Amen.

Lesson 5- (LAO #2, 3,5,6,7,8)

God's Call, Vocations

Friday

1. Hold up a phone and ask: What is this? What do people do with a phone? Who might call you and what might they say? Have you ever called or texted someone? What did you say to them?
 - a. Alternatively, play the game Telephone with students (directions attached to lesson)
2. Lead into that fact that God calls us too. Not on a phone. He doesn't text us. We don't have a phone number to call God and talk to Him in Heaven. Even though God doesn't call us on a phone, we can still hear Him. God calls all of us to live good and holy lives. Ask: How can we hear him? **let student guide the conversation but lead to through Jesus, The Bible, Sacraments, other people in our lives.* What does living a holy life mean?
3. We are called to live our holiness in different ways. God calls some people to be holy by being married. Through the Sacrament of Matrimony a man and woman who love each other become husband and wife. They promise to accept the gift of children from God. They help each other and their families grow closer to God. Some married men become Deacons, serving Church and their family.
4. God calls other people to be religious sisters or brothers. They love God and try to share His love with others. We call these people Sister or Brother.
5. God calls other people to live out their holiness as a priest. We call them Father and they serve and love all God's people. These baptized men, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders will serve the Church as a bishop or a priest, or even someday a Pope.
6. God calls each person at Baptism, when we became a child of God, to respond to His will. God goes to great lengths to enter our lives. He has a plan for you and me. No matter to which life God calls us, it is important to listen very carefully to what God is saying by praying to God, listening to what we hear at Mass, learning more about our gifts and by receiving the Sacraments.
7. If God was calling you on the phone or knocking on your door, would you answer it? (Yes!) Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart, listening to ones heart is listening to Jesus. *Show the students a picture of the famous painting of Jesus standing before a door, his hand lifted in a gesture of knocking. Reflect upon the door having no doorknob and lead the students to the awareness that the handle is only on the inside. Only you can open the door to Jesus.*
8. Performance Task: Make Jesus is Knocking at the door of your heart doorknob decorations.
9. Closing prayer: God, our Father. You call us to be holy. Help us to know Your will. Help us to listen to Your call. Help us to say "yes" to You. Amen.