

Archdiocese of Philadelphia - Vocation Awareness Week Unit Plan

Title of unit: Our Gifts and God's Call

Grade level: Third Grade

Approximate time needed for unit completion: 1 week

Proposed Start Date: Monday of Vocation Awareness Week

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DESIRED RESULTS

Common Core State Standards:

Writing 3.4 – With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose

Speaking and Listening 3.1 – Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one on one, in groups and teacher led with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts)

Enduring Understandings:

Overarching: God has a unique plan for each of us.

Topical: Students learn that by identifying the gifts God has given them, they can better serve God and follow His plan.

Essential Questions:

- How can we use our gifts and talents to serve God?
- How can we follow in the example of saints in fulfilling our vocations?

Unit Questions:

- Lesson 1: What gifts do you have? How can you use these gifts to become closer to God?
- Lesson 2: How do the sacraments bring us closer to God
- Lesson 3: How can we be more like the saints?
- Lesson 4: How can married people show their love for God?
- Lesson 5: How do we discover God's plan for us?

Student Objectives

- Lesson 1: I can identify the gifts God has given me.
- Lesson 2: I can write about the ways the sacraments help me become closer to Jesus.
- Lesson 3: I can write about how I can follow in the footsteps of the saints.
- Lesson 4: I can list ways that married people can share in God's love.
- Lesson 5: I can explain ways that I can discover God's plan for me.

ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE

Students will be assessed through their participation in whole and small group discussion, as well as their completion of the writing activities throughout the week

MATERIALS and RESOURCES

- Vocation Unit Plan
 - Vocation Prayer
 - Religion Copybook or paper
 - Crayons/colored pencils
 - *Climbing to Jesus* copy for each student
 - Story of the St. Therese
 - PowerPoint- Helpful but optional
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LEARNING PLAN

Vocation Week

Day 1:

Date(s) _____

- **Begin** with Vocation prayer
 - **Introduce** vocations week. God created us to love and serve Him. He has a special plan for all of us. This plan is our vocation.
 - **Explain** that we all have gifts that God has given us. The talents and gifts God gave us will help us decide which way God is calling us to serve Him.
 - The way we serve God is our vocation.
 - **Ask** students to think about their gifts – share some aloud
 - Hand out “Climbing to Jesus” paper – have students write six of their gifts on the steps
 - Then write a paragraph stating how you can use your gifts to get closer to God.
 - **Read** the example to give them an idea of what a good paragraph looks like
 - **Share** your writing and color the paper.
- Recap** – ask the following questions
- 1) Why did God create us?
 - 2) How should we use the gifts God gave us?
 - 3) What is a vocation?

Day 2:

Date(s) _____

- **Begin** with Vocation prayer
- Today the vocation focus is the priesthood
- **Create** a word web or a wordle describing a priest you all know. Focus on the gifts that they have – this can be a whole group activity or small group
- Priest use their gifts and talents to bring others closer to God. One way that they do this is through administering the sacraments
- **Review** what a sacrament is.
- **Play** who can remember the sacrament game – you can do this as a whole group or break the students into teams. – See PPT slides for clues and answers
- **Conclude** by asking students to write down 3-5 sentences on what they learned about sacraments. Have them draw a picture underneath.
- **Recap** that today students learned that some men are called to the vocation priesthood. Tomorrow's vocation focus is religious life

Day 3:

Date(s) _____

- **Begin** with Vocation prayer
- **Recall** that yesterday students learned about the priesthood. Today they will learn about the call to religious life
- Religious life includes the vocation to be a sister brother (nun or monk)
- Religious usually live in community
- There are many religious orders in our area today– and many great saints who have been members of religious orders
- **Read** the story of St. Therese and watch the 2-minute video on Katherine Drexel (the video will play when you click her picture on ppt.), read about St. Francis if you have a saints books
- Have your students – **Write** about St. Therese the Little Flower. What little acts of kindness and sacrifices can you make to become closer to God? How can you follow their example?
- **Share** with the class
- **Recap** by asking the following questions:
 - 1) What vocations have we discussed so far?
 - 2) What saints do we know who were members of religious orders?
 - 3) How can we follow in the footsteps of the saints to become closer to God?

Day 4:

Date(s) _____

- **Begin** with Vocation Prayer
- The vocation of the day is marriage – sacrament where a man and woman make vows (promises) to love each other forever
- **Explain** that no matter what your vocation is, we are all called to spread God’s love and His word throughout the world.
- **Brainstorm** married saints (possible answers **Mary and Joseph**, **St. Anne and St. Joachim**, **St Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Louis**, **SS. Zelie and Louis Martin**)
- **Read** about St Anne and St. Joachim
- **Write** about ways in which the saints we talked about or someone you know is closer to God through the sacrament of marriage? - Read/display example first
- Share
- **Recap** – What is a vocation and What are the three vocations we discussed this week

Day 5:

Date(s) _____

- **Begin** with Vocation Prayer
- Wrap Up
- **Ask** students if you want to tell someone something how to do you tell them – phone, text, by mouth
- **Explain** that God calls us to our vocations, but not the way we call people
- **Explain** that God doesn’t call on phones or yell over our noisy lives. We need to quiet down so we can hear him. When we pray we are talking to God. If we keep praying, He will help us discover the path he wants us to follow.
 - If time allows, **Read** the passage 1 Kings: 11-13:
 - So He said, “Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake. After the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing. When Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out...
- **Write** - Pretend Jesus really did call you on the phone. What do you think you would talk about? Write a conversation between you and Jesus. Include what you learned about vocations this week. If you wish, share some of your conversation with your classmates and teacher.
- **Recap**
 - 1) God has a great plan for each one of us!
 - 2) We should use our gifts and develop our talents and use them for good, how God wants us to.
 - 3) If we listen, God is speaking. If you want to know your vocation make time to pray to God and ask him to guide you!
 - 4) It’s never too early to start praying about God’s plan for you!