

1st Grade God's Call

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE: To begin listening to ways that God calls us.

MAIN CONCEPTS:

- We were wonderfully made for friendship with God.
- God has prepared good work for us to do.
- God calls us in our hearts to friendship and good work.
- This call is our vocation.

PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

Teach the core components. Choose the other components you wish to use given the time you have and the needs of your children.

SIMPLE PRAYER

2 min

Let's draw near to God during today's lesson. Read Ephesians 2:10.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
- EPHESIANS 2:10

POSSIBLE PRAYER:

"Thank you God for creating us wonderfully! We want to do the good work that you have prepared for us. Open our minds and hearts today as we learn so that we can be filled with the knowledge of your will. Amen."

READING

10 min

Read "Jesus as a Boy" aloud as a meditation, stopping to ask questions along the way to stimulate and guide students' imagination.

JESUS AS A BOY

Refer to image of Flight Into Egypt

When Jesus was a little boy, did he do whatever he wanted to because he was God? Did he walk on water just for the

GOD'S CALL

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - EPHESIANS 2:10

READING

JESUS AS A BOY



VOCATION LESSONS | 1st Grade: God's Call



fun of it? Did he make his toys rise up in the air? Did he eat supper whenever he wanted? Did he tell Mary and Joseph what to do? No, not quite. The Bible says, "Jesus was obedient to them." In fact, as you will see, God worked out the beginning of Jesus' vocation through his parents.

We all love Christmas! Mary and Joseph were traveling on their way to Bethlehem when the time came for Jesus to be born. As the Bible says, Mary "gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger because there was no room in the inn." That night Jesus was born in a stable, surrounded by donkeys, cows, and sheep. What do you think it was like in the stable?

When Jesus was still a baby, Jesus, Mary and Joseph left Bethlehem and fled to Egypt. God had warned Joseph in a dream and told him go to Egypt to keep Jesus safe until Herod, a bad ruler, stopped trying to hurt Jesus. Jesus grew up in Egypt until an angel appeared to Joseph in two dreams and told him it was safe to leave Egypt. Joseph took the family and



READING *continued*

came up out of Egypt to Galilee, and they made their home in Nazareth. Do you think Jesus ever asked Joseph why they had to move from Galilee to Egypt and back again?

Even though Jesus had a deep relationship with God, and he himself was the second person of the Trinity, Jesus led the normal life of a boy of his time. He helped Joseph with wood working and did chores for the family. He prayed early in the morning, during the day and before bed. He played with cousins and friends, and he loved the people around him. Can you imagine Jesus playing tag or hiding-go-peek? What chores do you think Jesus did every day?

Refer to image of the Baptism of Christ

Then, at just the right time, when Jesus was about 30, he went to be baptized by his cousin, St. John the Baptist. The Holy Spirit led him to the desert and soon after he began the big work that God called him to do—his vocation. What was this work that God called Jesus to do?

So even though Jesus was God, the place where he got ready for his mission to save the world was in his daily life with Joseph and Mary. Jesus was prepared in the perfect way by trusting in Joseph and Mary each day. God gave special wisdom to Joseph so that he knew how to raise Jesus. What kind of things do you think Joseph and Mary taught Jesus?

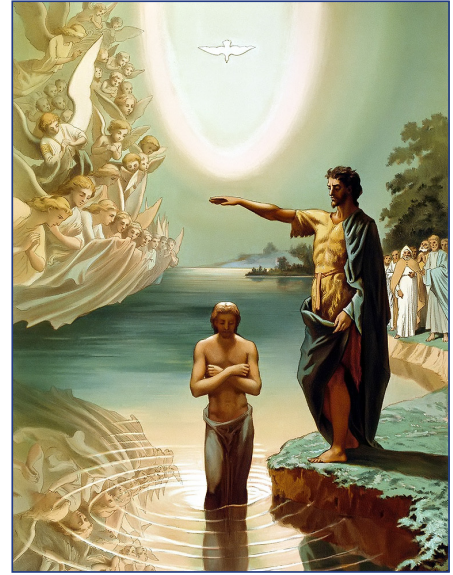
You are like Jesus. You share in his special mission. Right now God is getting you ready through your parents—even though you are young—just like he did for Jesus through his parents. You are a Christian, and that means, “Little Christ.” You, little Christ, are very special to God and someday he will lead you by His Spirit to your vocation. How does it make you feel to know that God is preparing you right now for a special mission?

GOD’S CALL

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” - EPHESIANS 2:10

READING

JESUS AS A BOY



VOCATION LESSONS | 1st Grade: God's Call



ACTIVITY

5 min

Show the slide show of baby snapshots, available at www.vocationlessons.com, and direct children to reflect on God’s love.

Close by reminding the children that God has loved us from the very start and has big plans for us.

Note to teachers: it may be best to watch this video silently because the sound track can be distracting.

From the very beginning of your life, even before you were born, God has had special plans for you. Look at these pictures of babies, and think about the plans God has for each of them. As you see these babies, think about the love that God has had for them and for you.

VISUAL ART

10 min

Display “Road to Emmaus”
by Robert Zund.

Discuss using these questions:

- What does Jesus seem to be doing in this painting?
- How do the color, light and shapes create a sense of peace in this painting?
- Is there excitement in this painting? Where do you see it?
- How is this like the path of your life?
- Would you like to be one of the disciples walking with Jesus on this path?

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

5 min

1. Introduce the reflection.

God created you with more detail and expression than any other flower, animal or place because he made you in his own image. Jesus spoke to his disciples about how much God cares for us. When we know that God has our good in mind, we can trust him and follow his call. Listen to Jesus’ words in the Gospel of Matthew—he speaks to you. Feel free to close your eyes as you listen.

2. Display the image of the child.

Read the Scripture passage aloud slowly.

3. Help the students to understand the passage in view of their own lives.

God is caring for you. Look at your life and see how. Has He given you health? Friends? Family? Food? Shelter? Clothing? Warmth? All these things you may have, but God wants to give you even more! That’s why He says to seek first His kingdom and righteousness. By living in friendship with God and doing his work we find happiness. How is God calling you today? Say yes to Him. This is your vocation.



GOD’S CALL



PRAYER

“Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear... Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. You are much more valuable than they are...So do not worry. Your heavenly Father knows what you need. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.” – MATTHEW 6:25-26, 31-33

PRAY TOGETHER

Vocation Prayer



I glorify You, God,
in all that I do.
Mind, body and spirit,
my best is for You.

AMEN.

VOCATION LESSONS | 1st Grade: God’s Call 2

Refer to image of the peaceful child

“Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear...Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. You are much more valuable than they are...So do not worry. Your heavenly Father knows what you need. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.” – MATTHEW 6:25-26, 31-33

PRAY TOGETHER

2 min

Direct the students to read and pray the Vocation Prayer together.