

# 1st Grade Priesthood

## OVERVIEW

**OBJECTIVE:** To foster an admiration for the courage and generosity needed to be a priest.

### MAIN CONCEPTS:

- A priest is a holy man who cares for people, usually in a parish.
- A priest is called “Father.”
- God calls some men to the priesthood.
- Because priests need to reach out to others in various situations, priests need to be courageous people.

### PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

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

## INTRODUCTION

3 min

Summarize today’s theme:

*Through these units we hope to become familiar with the vocations to which God calls people so that you will be able to follow his call always. Right now, you are in the single state of life, but someday God may call you to a particular vocation—married life, priesthood, or religious life. Today we will learn about the priesthood.*

## SIMPLE PRAYER

2 min

Let’s draw near to God during today’s lesson.

*“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” - JOHN 15:15*

### POSSIBLE PRAYER:

*Thank you, Lord, for calling us your friends. Please help us today to know you more and to appreciate priests.*

AMEN.

# PRIESTHOOD

*“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” - JOHN 15:15*

## READING

### FATHER SAYS



VOCATION LESSONS | 1st Grade: Priesthood



## MAIN CONCEPTS:

5 min

Teach the children these main concepts about priesthood.

- A priest is a holy man who cares for people, usually in a parish.
- A priest is called “Father”.
- God calls some men to the priesthood.
- It takes courage to be a priest.



## OPENING ACTIVITY

10 min

### FATHER SAYS

*Refer to image of priest baptizing baby.*

Play a variation on “Simon Says” where “Father Says” ministering actions of a priest, and the children must do them. Throw in some actions like hop on one foot, touch your knees, etc. Make up motions to go with some of the following ideas, and teach them to the children before beginning the game:

- Baptize a baby
- Make the sign of the cross
- Bless a person
- Forgive a person’s sin
- Anoint a sick person
- Bless a marriage
- Listen to someone who is sad
- Teach about Jesus
- Defend the faithful

### READING

15 min

Read “Super Priest” aloud to the class.

Discuss the reflection questions. Feel free to add questions of your own.

- How is a priest similar to a super hero? (Sample answer: A priest is brave—he goes into many new circumstances without knowing who he will meet or what will happen. A priest is strong—he has the power of God through the sacraments with him. A priest is generous—he lays down his own life to rescue others.)

### SUPER PRIEST

“Waa! Waa!” A new born baby was crying. His mommy was trying to calm him. Milk, rocking, bottle, pacifier. Still crying! What ever would she do?

Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to read the Bible in a single minute! Look up in the sky! It’s a bird. It’s a plane! It’s

## PRIESTHOOD

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” - JOHN 15:15

### READING

#### FATHER SAYS



VOCATION LESSONS | 1st Grade: Priesthood



Super Priest! Do not fear, for Father Clark is here!

*Refer to image “Everyday Superman,” by Samuel Briskar*

“Excuse me, Madame, I notice that your baby is crying. May I help?”

“Yes! Nothing seems to be calming him. Is there anything you can do?”

“Certainly! I can baptize him. He will be calmly brought into the family of God and washed from original sin. That will bring a smile to any baby’s face.”

“Oh, thank you, Father!”

Meanwhile, a very, very old man lay on a hospital bed, surrounded by his family and friends, breathing his last few breaths of life. No one is there who can give him the anointing of the sick! Who will bring the grace of the sacrament to him before he dies? Will anyone reach him in time?

## READING *continued*

Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to read the Bible in a single minute! Look up in the sky! It's a bird. It's a plane! It's Super Priest! Do not fear, for Father Clark is here!

"Hello, dear family. I see you look worried. May I help?"

"Yes, Father, the doctors say our grandpa will die soon, but no one has given him the sacrament of the sick."

"I am here to bring him grace and peace."

While Father Clark prayed, the old man felt much better, and he was at peace knowing that he would see Jesus soon.

But across town in a 5th grade classroom, a girl was feeling sad because she had been rude to one of her friends. She had apologized already, but she was still feeling really bad about it.

Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to read the Bible in a single minute! Look up in the sky! It's a bird. It's a plane! It's Super Priest! Do not fear, for Father Clark is here!

"Pardon me, Miss Teacher, but I notice that some of your students look sorry. Would your class like to go to the chapel for Reconciliation?"

The eyes of the students brightened knowing that God's forgiveness was near. The girl who had been rude earlier raised her hand. "I know that I would!" Many other students nodded their heads.

*Refer to image of girl going to confession*

Phew! Friendships saved, hearts made holy, and happiness restored.

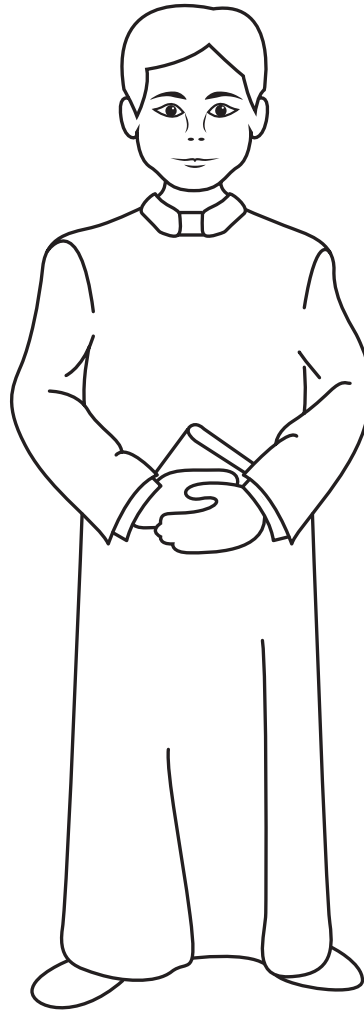
For more super hero adventures of Super Priest, ask your local pastor.

The End



## PRIESTHOOD

COLORING PAGE #1



VOCATION LESSONS | 1st Grade: Priesthood 2

### BE CURIOUS

- How is a priest similar to a super hero?
- What kind of situations does a priest come and help in?
- Where does a priest get the strength, generosity and courage he needs to be a "Super Priest"?
- Can you think of a time in your life when it would have been nice to have "Super Priest" fly in and help you?
- How would you feel if you could help hundreds of people every year in big ways?



## REINFORCING THE CONCEPTS

5 min

Quiz the students a bit to see if they grasp and remember the concepts. Answer any questions they may have. If it is helpful, refer to the Vocation Glossary, found at <http://www.vocation-lessons.com/glossary>

## ACTIVITY

15 min

### BRAVE PRIEST

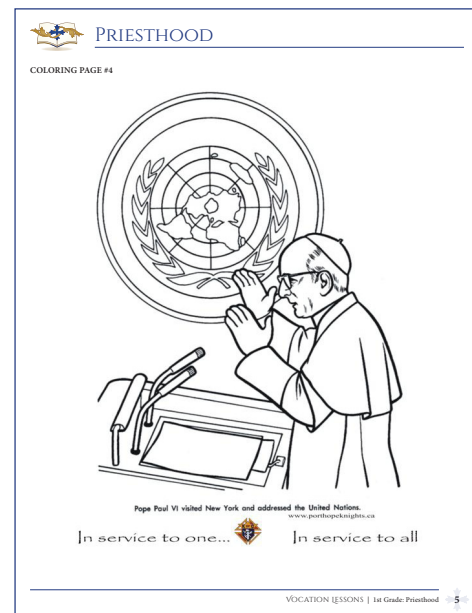
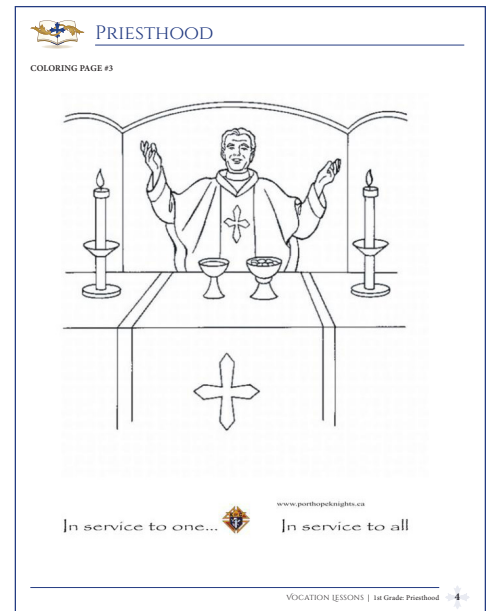
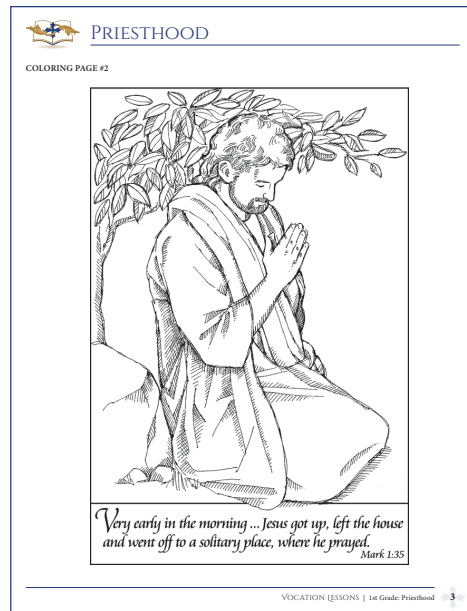
Refer to Coloring Page #1

It takes a courageous man to be a priest. He must be willing to sacrifice and take risks. In this game, you will roll the dice to see what action your priest gets to take. The higher the number on the die, the greater risk and more sacrifice necessary.

1. Have your students cut out one of the figures of a priest from the coloring page.
2. In groups, take turns rolling dice. The number on the die corresponds with the action the priest gets to take. With each roll, the student has to read the action and say whether their priest is willing to do it or not. If so, the student can make tally marks on the back of his/her priest.
3. The first one to get to 20 tally marks gets the title "Super Priest."

### BRAVE PRIESTLY ACTIONS

- Wake up before day light to pray and read the bible.
- Give advice to someone who is struggling with doing the wrong things.
- Explain the good news of Jesus to someone who doesn't understand.
- Preach a homily in front of 400 people.
- Hold the hand of a stranger who is dying.
- Visit a neighborhood with a lot of crime, and help make peace between people who do not get along.



## COLORING

10 min

Refer to Coloring Pages #2-#4

These coloring pages show a variety of priestly actions. Print a coloring page for each student, but make a mixture so that the children do not all have the same one. Have children color and decorate them.

## REFLECTIVE PRAYER

5 min

### STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Set a calm atmosphere, and then read the following reflection.

*When Joshua became the priest leader of God's people, God had a conversation with him, telling him to be brave and to stay strong in obeying the things God had taught. Because you have been baptized, you share the mission of priests to be strong and show people the way to God. As you listen to the conversation that God had with Joshua, notice the theme of bravery. How does God want you to be brave? How does he want you to be strong?*

*This is a prayerful time for you to listen deep in your heart. Feel free to get a little bit comfortable. You can close your eyes if you like.*

Read aloud Joshua 1:5-9.

*"No one can withstand you as long as you live. As I was with Moses, I will be with you I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, so that you may give this people the land I promised them. Only be strong and courageous, being careful to obey my entire law...then you will attain your goal; then you will succeed. I command you: be strong and courageous! Do not fear nor be discouraged, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go."*  
- JOSHUA 1:5-9

Have students close their eyes for this time of reflection:

*God says to you, "I will not leave you... the Lord, your God is with you wherever you go." Think about all the places you go. Imagine that you can see God with you in those places.*

*God says, "Be strong and courageous and be careful to obey all that I have taught you." What has God taught you that you need to obey? Imagine yourself being strong. Imagine yourself being courageous.*

*God is with you. He gives you courage and strength.*

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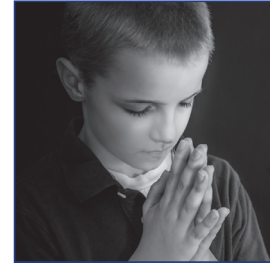
## PRIESTHOOD

### PRAYER

*"No one can withstand you as long as you live. As I was with Moses, I will be with you I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, so that you may give this people the land I promised them. Only be strong and courageous, being careful to obey my entire law...then you will attain your goal; then you will succeed. I command you: be strong and courageous! Do not fear nor be discouraged, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go." - JOSHUA 1:5-9*

### PRAY TOGETHER

### Vocation Prayer



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

AMEN.

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### VOCAL PRAYER

1 min

Lead the students in praying the Vocation Prayer.