

2nd Grade: God's Call

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES:

- To begin a few practices that will make hearing God's call easier later in life.

MAIN CONCEPTS:

- God has a path for each of our lives.
- Through discernment, people can discover their vocations.
- Imitating Mary and the saints, practicing charity, and knowing yourself will make finding your vocation easier when you are older.

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.

INTRODUCTION

2 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 talk about Discernment, the process of learning the vocation to which God calls us.

GOD'S CALL

"He gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." - EPHESIANS 4:11

EXPLORATION



VOCATION TREASURE MAP

Directions:

1. On a blank sheet of paper, draw a treasure map with many turns. This will represent the path to finding your vocation.
2. For each turn in the path, write or draw a picture of a practical way you can do one of the "treasure-finding actions." Some ideas are talking to a Sister, watching the priest carefully, praying the rosary, and talking with your parents.

VIDEO



SAINT MARGARET MARY

1. Watch this video about St. Margaret Mary.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVVZLSGSxyc>
2. Answer these questions according to your teacher's directions.

- What virtues did St. Margaret Mary show that you would like to imitate?
- How can you be holy like her?

VOCATION LESSONS | 2nd Grade: God's Call



SIMPLE PRAYER

2 min

Let's draw near to God during today's lesson. Read Ephesians 4:11.

"He gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."
- EPHESIANS 4:11

POSSIBLE PRAYER: "Thank you, Lord, for the plan you already have for each of us. Give us the grace today to see how we can live close to you now and in the future."



TEACH AND DISCUSS

15 min

Teach the main concepts of discernment through a class discussion. Referring to the “Treasure Hunt” prompts below, teach the phrases that are in print, and discuss the questions that are in italics. Direct students to fill out the accompanying “Treasure-Finding Actions” worksheet according to the steps noted in brackets below.

“TREASURE HUNT”

How do people know what they should do or be when they get older? For some it is easy and obvious. Some don’t think about it at all and miss the call of God. For others, it is very hard to know. A vocation, after all, is not picking how to live, it is discovering the path God has for you. It is like going on a treasure hunt.

- *What things do you need before you go on a treasure hunt? (sample answers: a map, shovel, a compass)*

Just like you need certain tools to find buried treasure, so you need other special tools to find the treasure of your own life—your vocation! Here are three actions a child can do which will help to discover that “treasure” that God has for you both now and later. These are like the directions on your treasure map.

1st Treasure Finding-Action: Imitate Mary.

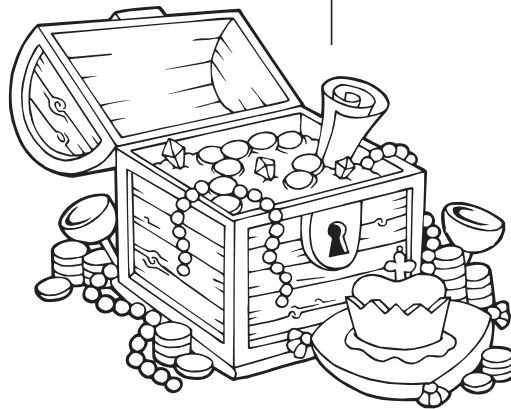
[Direct students to write “Imitate Mary” above the 1st box on their worksheet as the 1st treasure-finding action.]

Mary said, “yes” to God because she trusted in Him. Like Mary, you can say yes in little ways now. “Yes, I’ll be a friend.” “Yes, I’ll be brave.” “Yes, I’ll pray.”

- *What are some other ways you can say “yes”?*

It takes humility to say “yes.” Humility is when we do not boast or try to get things just for ourselves. Mary was humble, yet God exalted her. Mary was also holy. This purity helped her to hear God and be close to him.

TREASURE-FINDING ACTIONS



- *How can we be humble and holy like Mary? (sample answers: Let a classmate go before us in line. Tell the truth. Pray and talk to God every day.)*

[Direct students to draw a picture or write a sentence that represents this action of Imitating Mary (i.e. a picture such as a rosary, Mary praying, a heart with an M, or a sentence such as “She said, ‘yes,’ to God.)]

When we sin, we can’t hear God as well or understand well what is good. It is hard to be close to God then.

- *How do we get back to being holy and humble after we sin? (sample answers: Go to confession. Ask God forgiveness. Keep trying)*

Starting in second grade, most people get to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation. This is the time we confess our sins to Jesus through a priest, and Jesus forgives us of all our sin. Going to confession often will bring you humility and holiness like Mary.

- *Why do you think confession is good for you?*

2nd Treasure-Finding Action: Be Loving

[Direct students to locate the 2nd box on their worksheet and to write “Be Loving” above it as the 2nd treasure-finding action.]

Loving and sacrificing for others is a big part of every vocation. Through charity, love, we become closer to God and happier in our souls. It is hard to give your whole life to God through the priesthood, religious life, or marriage if you’ve never given up something for the sake of another.

- What are some ways you practice being loving and sacrificing for others right now? (examples: Give the last cookie to your brother. Take the uncomfortable chair. Let your sister talk while you listen.)

These are all acts of charity. It is also fun to do many of your acts of charity in secret.

[Direct students to draw a picture or write a sentence that represents this action of Being Loving. (Pictures might include a heart or people holding hands, and a sentence might be, “Share a toy with a classmate.”)]

3rd Treasure-Finding Action: Know Yourself

[Direct students to write “Know Yourself” above the 3rd box as the 3rd treasure-finding action.]

God calls you to a vocation that will bring you the deepest happiness and allow you to thrive. He has the best match for you, and knowing yourself will help you to find it. Let’s take some time to know about ourselves.

- What are you good at? What do you like? Are you more talkative or quiet?

[Direct students to draw a picture or write a sentence that represents this action of Knowing Yourself. (Drawings might include a self-portrait, the child with his family, or the child doing something he enjoys. Sentences might describe the child or name things that are important to him, i.e., “I love my family.”)]

Overcoming Obstacles: What if you don’t feel like imitating Mary, practicing charity, or knowing yourself?

Remember that finding your vocation is like finding a treasure. The person who says, “I will live my life however I want, I don’t need to be humble or sacrifice, and I don’t need God to tell me what to do,” is like someone who tries to go on a treasure hunt without looking at the map.

- What would happen to him?

He might say, “I found this plastic gold! That’s enough for me!” But God knows the path to the real gold.

The deepest, most lasting happiness is found in God and in serving others. Some people have tried serving others and said, “Actually, I like getting things for myself better.” That honest person is a little bit like a baby who thinks, “I tried walking a couple times but I didn’t like it as much as crawling. Crawling was easier.”

- What would happen if a baby never learned to walk?

Most babies eventually discover that the thing they thought was hard at first is actually great once they learn how to do it. Don’t worry! God has put deep within every child and adult the desire and determination to keep searching for the greatest treasure.

- What can you do to help you keep on the treasure path even when you don’t feel like serving and loving? (Sample answers: Ask God to help you. Pray a “Hail Mary” and ask Mary or another saint to help you. Remind yourself that the treasure is worth seeking.)

[Direct students to locate the treasure box and write “My Vocation” above it. Students may then color the treasure box.]

Review:

What are three things kids can do now which will help them discover their vocation later?

ACTIVITY

15 min

GOOD DEED BEAD Pictionary

Explain what “Good Deed Beads” are. (Bring some in to show the class if you have them.)

St. Therese often kept a string of beads with her throughout the day and used it to count how many good things she could do that day to offer to Jesus. Some people call these “good deed beads” or “sacrifice beads.” Making sacrifices and doing good deeds is a great practice for every Christian to do. If you are strong in being able to make little sacrifices now, you will be strong enough to say, “yes” to God when he shows you your vocation.

Let’s think of things that people could do which would earn a “good deed bead.” Here are a few examples: You want to play a game on the computer, but your brother is using it. You cheerfully choose to go and find a different activity. Or: You don’t like chicken, but you eat the chicken you are served at dinner anyway.

PLAY “GOOD DEED BEAD” Pictionary:

1. Have a student come to the board to draw an action that would merit a “good deed bead.”
2. Other students try to guess what was drawn.
3. Teacher explains how the deed is truly a sacrifice or how it could be modified to become one.

REINFORCE

5 min

1. Display the main concepts on the board.
2. Have the students verbally repeat them, write them down or ask questions about them.
3. Quiz the students a bit to see if they grasp the concepts. If it is helpful, refer to the Vocation Glossary found at www.vocationlessons.com/glossary.

EXPLORATION

10 min

1. Introduce the activity.
Earlier we talked about three “Treasure-finding actions” we can do to discover our vocations: imitating Mary, knowing ourselves, and loving others.
2. Model the Vocation Treasure Map activity for the children.
3. If time allows, give children an opportunity to share about their paths with the class.

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VIDEO

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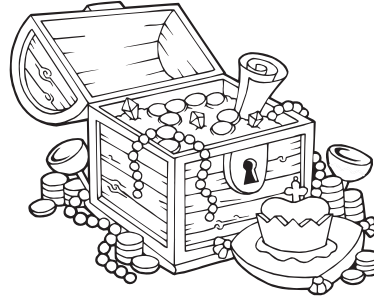
ONCE UPON A SAINT

1. Introduce the video found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVVZLSGSxyc>.
Imitating Mary and the saints is a very good way to keep close to God and be able to discern your vocation later. Watch this this video of a young saint whom we all can imitate!
2. Show the “Once Upon a Saint- St. Margaret Mary” video to the students.
3. Discuss the reflection questions with the class.
 - What virtues did St. Margaret Mary show that you would like to imitate?
 - How can you be holy like her?

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MEDITATIVE PRAYER

10 min

1. Introduce the Meditation.
Mary was called to a special vocation, just like we all will be, too. Mary was called to a special vocation, just like we all will be, too. Mary said, “yes,” to God when the angel Gabriel told her that she was chosen to be the Mother of Jesus. When we imitate Mary, we become humble, joyful, and strong. God has chosen each of us to do something great in this world, and, by imitating Mary, we will be part of God’s big plan. During this prayer, let us imitate Mary by making different postures that we think imitates Mary’s character. As we do this, we can talk to God in our hearts and ask him to give us good character for our own vocations.
2. Display the following characteristics of Mary on the board. With the class, come up with different postures or movements that reflect each characteristic of Mary.
3. Read the characteristics one at a time, and lead the class in doing the corresponding postures together.

BEING LIKE MARY

With your classmates, come up with different postures or movements that reflect each characteristic of Mary. Then read the characteristics, and do the postures together as a class.

Refer to the image of The Virgin and Child.

Characteristics of Mary

- Mary is humble.
- Mary is a thinker.
- Mary is prayerful.
- Mary serves others.
- Mary is joyful.
- Mary trusts God.
- Mary is generous.
- Mary is wise.
- Mary loves people.
- Mary says yes to God.

VOCAL PRAYER

5 min

1. Direct the students to look over the *Vocation Prayer*.
God will call you to a wonderful vocation, but only God knows what that is. Right now he is very happy with you as a child. Through this prayer, let us say "yes" to our vocation now and in the future.
2. Read a line of the Vocation Prayer and have the children repeat it. Continue with all the lines.
3. Read the prayer all together.



MEDITATIVE PRAYER

BEING LIKE MARY

With your classmates, come up with different postures or movements that reflect each characteristic of Mary. Then read the characteristics, and do the postures together as a class.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MARY

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- Mary is a thinker.
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- Mary loves people.
- Mary says yes to God.

PRAY TOGETHER

Vocation Prayer

I say yes like Mary,
And give you my heart.
To follow you Jesus,
I will do my part.
Help me follow your will
No matter the call.
Whatever vocation,
I promise my all.

AMEN.