

3rd Grade: God's Call

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

- To marvel at God's purpose and love in creating each of us for Himself.

MAIN CONCEPTS:

- God made us so that we can enjoy his company and he can enjoy ours.
- We will be most happy and holy when we answer, "yes" to God's call to walk daily with Jesus.
- Prayer is a big part of connecting with God as we walk through life with Him.

PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

- Complete the core components of the lesson. Select and complete other components given the time you have and the needs of your students.

INTRODUCTION

2 min

Summarize today's theme.

Today's theme is "A Happy, Holy Life." You know that a vocation is a call from God to live a certain way (like marriage, priesthood, and the consecrated life), but the most simple and most important vocation is the personal one he asks of each of us—to walk with him throughout life.

SIMPLE PRAYER

2 min

Slowly read Psalm 27:4 aloud, allowing a few seconds of silence between each phrase:

One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life, to gaze on the Lord's beauty, to visit his temple. – PSALM 27:4

Pray this or another simple prayer from the heart: "Holy Spirit, please be with us and help us to listen to you and learn."

© Vianney Vocations. Use of this curriculum, in both digital and printed form, is licensed for a specific time period. To view your licensing status, sign in to www.vocationlessons.com.

GOD'S CALL

One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life, to gaze on the Lord's beauty, to visit his temple. – PSALM 27:4

READING



KEEPING COMPANY WITH GOD

Has anyone ever asked you to keep him or her company? Have you ever gone to a party and wished you had a good friend to go with you? Many times it is so much nicer to be with someone you love instead of being by yourself. In a way, this is the reason God created you: that he can keep you company and so that you can keep him company. Think about it! The God of the whole universe, who knows everything and is all-powerful, wants and loves your company! More than that, he wants you to be able to enjoy the most inner part of his life. He wants to give you the best company ever—himself!

God calls you individually. He calls you by name and looks at you very specially. God also calls us all together. He calls us all (you, your friends, your family, your neighborhood, and everyone in the world) to be with him together. Imagine sharing a meal at Thanksgiving with everyone in the whole world at the table!

Let's look at the Catechism to understand this more. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a big book that explains many important things about our Faith. It is a great reference book. There are lots of big words and long sentences, but if we look at a small section at a time and try to understand difficult words, we can discover a treasure!

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PROLOGUE I.1

God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself,
in a plan of sheer goodness
freely created man
to make him share in his own
blessed life.

For this reason, at every time and in every place,

God draws close to man.

He calls man to seek him,

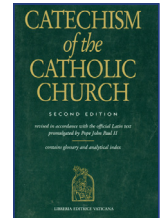
to know him,

to love him

with all his strength.

BE CURIOUS

- Why does God call us to seek him with all of our strength?
- What is God's own blessed life?
- What does God think and feel when he "draws close" to us?



VOCATION LESSONS | 3rd Grade: God's Call

TEACH

3 min

Teach the main concepts:

- God made us so that we could enjoy his company and he can enjoy ours.
- We will be most happy and holy when we answer "yes" to God's call to walk daily with Jesus.
- Prayer is a big part of building a relationship with God as we walk through life with Him.
- Today we will take time to marvel for a while at God's purpose for making you.

ACTIVITY

10 min

GOLF THEATRE

1. Ask a few students to act out the following:
 - A golf match by people who don't know how to play golf.
 - A doctor, who doesn't at all know what he is doing, trying to help a child with a broken arm.
2. Discuss: In what ways are these skits similar to a Christian who doesn't pray?

Possible answers:

- The people in the skits didn't know how to do the very thing they were trying to do.
- Prayer is the way to know God.
- In order to follow God, we need to spend time with him and get to know him.
- If we don't pray, then we will be like the silly doctor and golfer as we try to live the Christian life.

READING

15 min

1. Have students take turns reading aloud from "Keeping Company with God" and the Catechism passage.
2. Help students understand the meanings of difficult words.
3. Discuss the reflection questions as a class.

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.vocation-lessons.com/glossary.



GOD'S CALL

REINFORCE

ENJOYING GOD'S COMPANY

- God made us so that we could enjoy his company and he can enjoy ours.
- We will be most happy and holy when we answer "yes" to God's call to walk daily with Jesus.
- Prayer is a big part of building a relationship with God as we walk through life with Him.

EXPLORATION

WRITE ABOUT BEING WITH GOD

Write a psalm or poem about heaven and being in God's company. Include how you think heaven would feel and what it would look like.



St. Faustina had visions of Jesus. This painting was displayed at her canonization in the year 2000.

VISUAL ART

This is a painting of a real place in California, Yosemite Valley.



- What techniques did the artist use to show the beauty of this place?
- What do you think is most beautiful about this painting?
- If earth is this awe inspiring, what do you think the "Lord's House" is like?
- How does the beauty of this picture show us God's love?

VOCATION LESSONS | 3rd Grade: God's Call



EXPLORATION

15 min

1. Introduce the activity:

Now we know that prayer is a big part of connecting with God and fulfilling the purpose for which we were created. Even just thinking and wondering about heaven, God's company, and the happiness that we were made for is prayer.
2. Direct students to write their own psalm like the one prayed in the beginning of class or a poem about heaven and God's company. They can use their imagination and some ideas from the catechism and discussion.
3. Discuss: How can this psalm or poem help you walk with Jesus?

VISUAL ART

5 min

1. Display the “Yosemite Valley” by Albert Bierstadt.
2. Through class discussion or writing, direct students to study and analyze the painting in light of today’s theme. Use the reflection questions below to prompt thoughts and discussion.

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

5 min

1. Introduce the meditation.
Now is the time to think about God’s word and let it sink into your heart like rain that comes and waters the plants. You can close your eyes if you’d like as you listen.
2. Slowly read Psalm 27:4 aloud.
Pause in between phrases for contemplation.
3. Help the students to reflect silently on this scripture and their own lives.
What is the one thing you ask of the Lord if you could ask for one thing? Imagine living in the Lord’s house. Imagine being able to look at God. What would you see? What would it be like to visit God?

VOCAL PRAYER

5 min

1. Direct the students to look over the Vocation Prayer.
2. Lead the students in praying the Vocation Prayer aloud together.



GOD’S CALL

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*“One thing I ask
of the Lord;
this I seek:
To dwell in the
Lord’s house all the
days of my life,
to gaze on the
Lord’s beauty,
to visit his temple.”
– PSALM 27:4*

PRAY TOGETHER

Vocation Prayer

I glorify You, God,
In all that I do.
Mind, body and spirit,
My best is for You.
For us to be close, Lord,
Is what you desire.
I trust that your good love
For me will not tire.
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.