

## Assessment Option 2: Story 1

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Teacher:

### Recording

Kindergarteners through 5th graders also take a portion of time each year to focus on vocation. Perhaps you remember some of the vocation stories, prayers, or videos from years past. This assignment will give you a chance to enhance some of those things that Kindergarteners and 1st graders are studying. Choose one of the stories and make an audio version of it that teachers can play for their classes. This assignment was done in 6th grade too, but the readings were different. Include at least four reflection questions for the kindergarteners as well as some potential answers. The way in which you read (inflections, emphasis, sensitivity, and pauses) should display your knowledge of the vocation subject and awareness of audience and your reflection questions should show your mastery of basic vocation concepts as they are being conveyed by the story.

Student:

### The Pope of Little Children

*Excerpted from Saints of the Eucharist by Father Francis*

“Oh, Father, thank you for these new shoes!” cried Beppo. This was Beppo’s first new pair of shoes in twelve years. No wonder he was so happy. “I shall always take good care of them, too,” thought Beppo. “And they will last longer if I carry them to school. I can put them on when I get there. No one will know I walked to school barefooted.”

And so it was that on warm days little Beppo would often be seen walking the four miles to school carrying his shoes.

Each morning Beppo started the day right by going to Mass....



A little boy pretends to celebrate Mass.

One could often hear him whisper this prayer, “Mother of God, I love you. Please help me to be a priest someday. I wish to bring all people and all things to Christ, your Son. I know He would be happy. So please help me, dear Mary!”

Little Beppo loved the Mass so much that he even made an altar at home. Here he was often found playing “priest.” He tried to say Mass as the parish priest did. His little brother and sisters would come to his Mass. But how carefully they watched and prayed!

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Like many other boys and girls of long ago, Beppo had to wait long to make his First Holy Communion. Sometimes he would joke with the other children saying, “When I am Pope someday I will change that rule. I will allow children to receive Jesus even when they are very young. Jesus will make them strong and keep them pure.” Then he would run away laughing at his funny thoughts. Little did Beppo dream that someday God would really make him a pope—the pope of little children. Soon Beppo went to study to become a priest. The people of his town helped to pay for all he needed. They knew how poor his family was....



A young Fr. Sarto

The big day came. Beppo was now a priest. How happy his family and friends were! ... Father Sarto, as he was now called, loved to teach little children about God. He loved to prepare them for their First Holy Communion. He would often say, “What pleases me most is to see people coming up to receive Jesus.”

Many years passed by and soon Father Sarto became a bishop. Not long after, he was made pope. He cried when he got the news because he did not think he was holy enough. Beppo chose the name Pope Pius X. Now he was ruler of the whole Catholic Church.

One day a man brought his little son to see the pope. “Dear Holy Father, my little son heard the good news about receiving Holy Communion. He wishes to receive his First Holy Communion, too, but he is only four years old.”

The Holy Father picked up the little boy and put him on his lap. “Let us see what you know, little one.” The pope asked, “Who comes to you in Holy Communion?”

“Why, It is Jesus!” said the boy quickly.

“And who is Jesus?” the Holy Father asked again.

“He is God and I love Him,” said the little boy.



A boy receives First Communion from the pope.

“Your little boy is old enough to receive Holy Communion,” the pope said, turning to the little boy’s father. “Bring your little boy to my Mass tomorrow morning. I myself will give him his First Holy Communion. He is ready.”

Pope Pius X did many great and holy things. Even while he was alive God let him work some miracles....

A father carried his little son to the pope. His boy had never walked or stood up in his life. He was this way since he was born. The poor father wanted Pius X to help his little boy.

“Let me hold your little son,” asked the pope as he took the boy. “I will pray to God to help him.”

After a short time the boy asked the pope to let him down. He began to run around the room calling, “I can run! I can run! Oh, thank you, dear Holy Father!” Everyone in the world heard about this miracle, too.

Now Pope Pius X is Saint Pius X.



Pope Saint Pius X

## Assessment Option 2: Story 2

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Student:

### Families: Building Blocks of the World



You probably know the story of the “Three Little Pigs.”  
Once upon a time, there were three little pigs who set off to make their way in the world. The first little pig built his house out of straw. The second little pig built his house out of sticks. The third little

pig built his house out of solid bricks. He lifted them carefully and fit them together to make a very strong house. Along came a hungry wolf who liked the taste of little pigs. He knocked on the door of the straw house.

"Little pig, little pig, let me in," said the wolf very sweetly.

"Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin!" replied the pig.

"Then I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down!"

So he huffed, and he puffed, and he blew the straw house down!

Next, the wolf went to the house made out of sticks.

"Little pig, little pig, let me in," he called.

The little pig answered, "Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin!"

"Then I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down!"

So he huffed, and he puffed, and he blew the stick house down.

Finally, the wolf came to the house made out of brick.

"Little pig, little pig, let me in," said the wolf.

"Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin!" said the pig.

"Then I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down!"

So he huffed, and he puffed, and he puffed, and he huffed, but no matter how hard he tried, the wolf could not blow the brick house down.

The End

There may be other versions of the story that you know, but in all of them, what happened when that mean old wolf huffed and puffed to blow the first two houses down? It worked, didn't it? The houses collapsed. What were they made out of? Sticks and straw. What happened when the hungry wolf tried to blow down the brick house? He could not blow it down. It was too strong.



A community whose families are strong and good is like the little pig's house that is made out of bricks. Families are strong when they care for each other's needs. If you think of our whole world as a building, families are like the bricks. The fancy way of saying this is that the family is the basic unit of society. Try saying that phrase. It means that families are the most important part of the world. The building block of the world is not the government, nor one person, nor a business like Walmart—it is the family.

When God calls a person to the vocation of marriage, it is so that person will be happy, will care for their spouse and children, and will help hold up the whole community like the brick in the little pig's house! That is an important calling!

Our world needs happy, holy, and healthy families! The happier, holier, and healthier that families are in a town or country, the better that place will be. Think about the hundreds of needs that a family meets. Some of the things people need are so simple that they are almost boring or funny, while others are deeply important to people's feelings. Let's name some of these needs: Little kids' toenails need cut, floors need swept, injuries need bandaged, and diapers need changed. All people

need to feel loved, to be included in a group, to feel comfortable, to learn about God, and to be understood. Can you think of any other needs we all have?

When your family loves well, you will be strong together. Here's a funny way you can see that a family supporting each other is stronger than a person is on his own. Try gently bending back your little pinky on your left hand by pushing it with your right hand. Pretend your little pinky doesn't want to go back. Can it resist? Any of your fingers will bend back if you push it with your other hand.

That's what it is like when individual people are not built up by a family. If, however, you put all of your left-hand fingers together, including your thumb, they are so strong that your right hand cannot push them backward. That's the power of family. That's why a family is like a strong brick. It is the basic unit of society.

Meeting the needs of a family is difficult, but God knows this. He made marriage a sacrament. A sacrament is a sign of God's love that gives special help called "grace." This grace helps a mom and dad lovingly meet the needs of their family.

## Be Curious

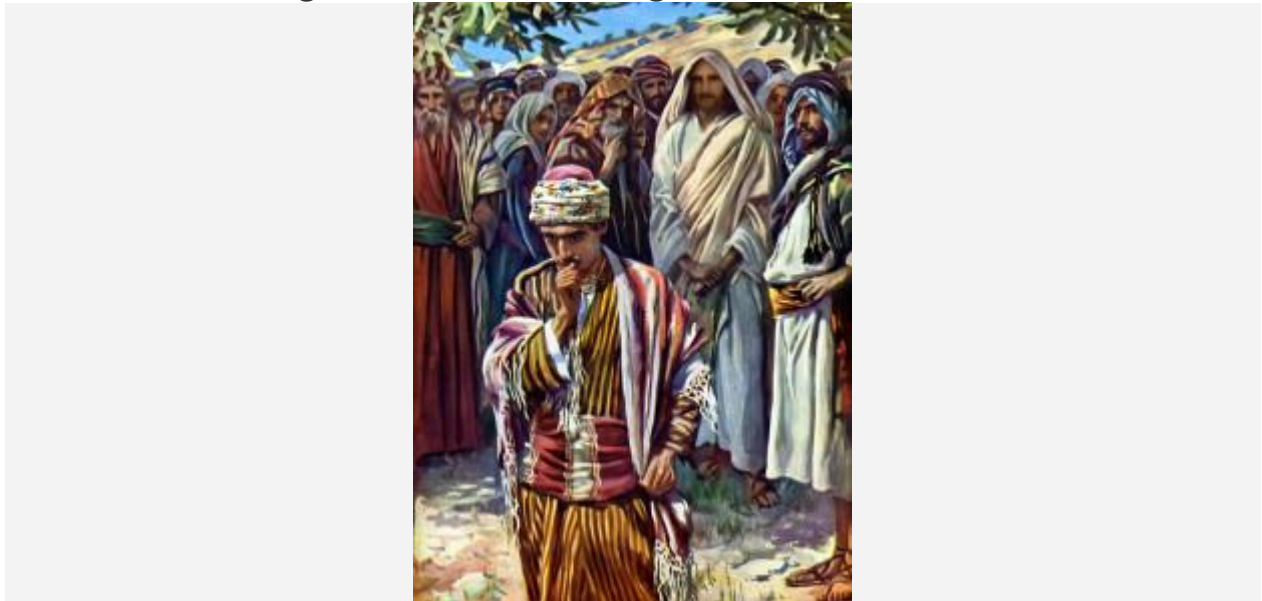
- How many minutes or hours a day do you think it takes a mom or dad to meet the needs of a family?
- Why is family the basic unit of society?
- What are some of the needs of the people in your family?
- What is something you do to help make your family loving?

## Assessment Option 2: Story 3

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Student:

### Jesus' Challenge to a Rich Young Man



One day a young man came up to Jesus and asked, "Good teacher, what do I have to do in order to have eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Keep the commandments." "Which ones?" asked the young man. Jesus replied, "Don't kill or steal or lie. Honor your parents. Love your neighbor as yourself." The man said, "I have done that for my whole life. What else can I do?"

The Jesus looked at him and said, "If you want to be perfect, there is still one more thing for you to do: sell everything you have and give it to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

But when the young man heard this he became quite sad and went away, because he was very rich...

Then Peter said to Jesus, "We have given up everything we have and followed you."

Jesus said to them, "Everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will receive back an overabundant return here and now and in heaven."

(See Luke 18:18-30)

## Assessment Option 2: Story 4

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Student:

### The Father's Voice

Once upon a time there were two little children, a boy and a girl, who had a very special home. Their home was full of sunshine and flowers. Their mother and father always gave them good things to eat, and happiness filled the home. To the boy and girl, however, the best thing about their home was their Father. He was the happiest father you ever met, and his eyes would twinkle like real stars when he looked at his children. He loved to carry his little daughter on his shoulders and let her pick cherries from the trees. He loved to toss his little boy way high up in the air and catch him. The two children loved their home and their Father.



The children lived with their mother and father in a beautiful home.  
"Home in the Woods," Thomas Cole, 1847

*"Home in the Woods," Thomas Cole, 1847*

One day the little boy and little girl decided to explore the big forest near their home. At first, they had a wonderful adventure, climbing trees, catching bugs, and chasing sunbeams. After a while, however, they became tired. As the children sat down to rest, the little boy noticed the sun setting. The little girl noticed the deepening shadows of evening. Suddenly, they realized they had been gone from home a LONG time. In fact, they had wandered so long and so far in the woods that they were lost.

"Oh no!" cried the girl. "We're lost! We will never get home! Do you think our Father will forget us?" And she burst into tears.

"No," said the boy. "Our Father will never forget us, and he will surely come find us."



The woods were fun at first, but soon the children were lost.  
"Pine Forest in Vyatka Province," Ivan Shishkin, 1878

*"Pine Forest in Vyatka Province," Ivan Shishkin, 1878*

Comforted by thought of their Father, the two children hugged each other and sat down to wait. After a while, they began to be hungry. The girl pulled out a piece of bread she had kept in her backpack for their adventure. "Here, we can share this for dinner," she said.

Soon, the stars began to twinkle in the darkening sky. "Do you think our Father will come?" asked the girl again.

"I am sure he will," reassured her brother. "We must keep waiting. He will find us."

Comforted again by the thought that their Father would find them, the two children became peaceful. They rested together at the foot of a large oak tree and soon fell fast asleep.





The children fell asleep under a tree.  
"Children in the Wood," Charles Lucy, 1859

*"Children in the Wood," Charles Lucy, 1859*

As the children slept, both dreamed they heard a voice, so very kind and gentle, calling their names. The next day dawned bright and clear. As the sun started to rise, the children woke surprisingly refreshed from their night under the tree.

"I had the most wonderful dream!" exclaimed the girl. "The kindest voice in the world was calling my name!"

"Me too!" cried the boy. "I heard that same kind voice! I almost think I can hear it still calling me." The two stood very still and listened hard. Faintly at first, but then stronger and louder, a voice was calling—a voice calling each of their names—a voice so kind and gentle they wanted to cry—the voice of their Father!!!

"My children!" the Father called, for it was him! He was running through the trees towards them.



The father ran to find his children.  
"Pine Forest," Ivan Shishkin, 1878

*"Pine Forest," Ivan Shishkin, 1878*

"Father!" cried the children. They jumped forward as they recognized their Father's voice, and they began to run to him. The next minute they were all in each other's arms, Father hugging the children, and the children hugging their Father. Everyone was laughing and crying all at the same time.

"Oh, we knew you'd come for us, Father," said the boy.

The Father held his son and daughter close to him, and he kissed them on their foreheads. "My dear children," he said. "How I missed you! The moment I knew you were lost I came looking for you, longing to find you. And now my heart is joyful to have you with me again. Come with me to our home. Your mother awaits our return anxiously. Joy will reign in our home always, for our children have been found!"

And so the Father carried the boy and girl in his strong arms and brought them safely to their home again. From that day forward, the children knew that if ever they were lost again, their Father would come for them and call them, and he would lead them safely down the right path to their home.