

KINDERGARTEN: Priesthood

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE: To know to address a priest as “Father,” and to know a few things that priests do.

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.

PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

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

INTRODUCTION

2 min

Summarize today’s theme.

Remember that God calls us to be close Him. 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 the vocation of being a priest.

SIMPLE PRAYER

1 min

Let’s draw near to God during today’s lesson. Read aloud John 21:15.

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Peter, “Do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to Peter, “Feed my lambs.”- JOHN 21:15

POSSIBLE PRAYER:

“Thank you God for giving us priests to take care of us like a good shepherd. Please help us to see how you care for us through priests.”

PRIESTHOOD

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READING: The Ladybug and the Priest



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MAIN CONCEPTS

5 min

TEACH:

Discuss these main concepts while displaying a photo of a priest.

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

REINFORCE:

Ask the children simple questions that they can answer aloud.

- *A holy man who cares for people is called a ___? Priest!*
- *What is a priest called? Father!*
- *Where do most priests work? A parish!*



ACTIVITY

10 min

FEED MY LAMBS

1. Display a picture of a lamb on the board, or print one on paper.
2. Children think of ways priests serve people.
3. Every time a student comes up with a way that a priest “feeds the lambs” (serves people), he or she can tape a piece of paper hay or draw one in front of the lamb’s mouth. After coming up with many ways that a priest serves, the lamb will have plenty to eat!

READING

15 min

“THE LADY BUG & THE PRIEST”

1. Introduce the story.
2. Then read aloud “The Lady Bug & the Priest.”
3. Discuss the story using the reflection questions and/or any of your own.

INTRODUCTION:

This story can give us a little idea about what it is like to be a priest..

“The Lady Bug & the Priest”

Early one morning, when it was still dark, a bunny, a chipmunk and a dog were talking together outside the house of Fr. Gilbert. “That man seems very important,” barked Dog. “I saw lots of people shaking his hand last Sunday.” Dog picked up his paw and tried to shake hands with the chipmunk. The chipmunk fell over laughing.

Refer to image of chipmunk

“I like all the colors he wears. Sometimes the vestments he wears at church seem like a big tent to me,” squeaked the chipmunk. (Vestments are the clothes a priest wears during Mass.)

The shy little bunny just wiggled her nose and looked curious. Finally she

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said softly, “He seems different from the other people who have families and kids. I don’t think he’s married, but he sure seems to love lots of people! And lots of people love him. But what does he do?”

“Yes, what does he do?” echoed Dog and Chip.

Just then a little lady bug flew down. She had heard the animals talking and had an idea. “I can follow Fr. Gilbert around for a day and then you can have your question answered.” The animals all cheered as lady bug flew in to Fr. Gilbert’s house through an open window.

Refer to image of Ladybug flying

The first thing she noticed was a beautiful cross on the wall. There were other nice things decorating the house and it was very neat but not fancy. Fr. Gilbert was sitting at the table eating breakfast. Next to his cereal bowl was a Bible, which he was reading. The little ladybug stayed up high near the ceiling where Fr. Gilbert wouldn’t see her. Fr. Gilbert stood up and walked out the door. The ladybug waved to her friends as she passed them in front of his house.

Fr. Gilbert walked over to the church to celebrate Mass, even though it wasn't Sunday. The ladybug was very quiet and reverent while the priest changed the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus. "Wow!" she thought, "Wait till I tell Dog! A priest is the only one who can do this!" The ladybug felt funny about being a bug in church, but she knew that God made and loves little bugs too!

After Mass a man came up to Fr. Gilbert. "Father, my wife and I got into an argument. I feel upset. I just don't know what to do."

Refer to image of Sacred Heart of Jesus

Fr. Gilbert pulled a special card out of his pocket with a picture of the heart of Jesus on it. He gave it to the man and told him about miracles that can happen when people think about Jesus' heart. Just then, the bell rang from the school next door. Fr. Gilbert went over to the school and the ladybug had fun chasing the children during gym class as Fr. Gilbert played soccer with the second graders. He tried to kick a goal but the children blocked it. They all laughed as Fr. Gilbert pretended to be mad. On his way out of the school, Fr. Gilbert talked kindly with the janitor and school secretary.

When she saw Fr. Gilbert walking to his car, Lady Bug got a little nervous about how she was going to sneak into the car without Fr. Gilbert noticing. Happily, she flew in with no problem. As Fr. Gilbert drove, he listened to the news on the radio, then he turned it off to pray the rosary. He parked the car outside of a hospital. As Fr. Gilbert walked in, many people smiled and said "Hi, Father." "Hmm," thought the lady bug, "I guess he comes often if all these people know him. The lady bug didn't want any of the hospital patients to get even sicker from her germs so, she washed her hands—all six of them! The first patient that Fr. Gilbert visited was an old lady who was so sick that she couldn't even talk. But her eyes looked smiley as Fr. Gilbert



PRIESTHOOD

READING: The Ladybug and the Priest



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prayed with her and put oil on her head to give her a special sacrament called the Anointing of the Sick.

As they got back in the car, the lady bug was getting sleepy and she dozed off on the back seat. When she woke up, the car was stopped and Fr. Gilbert wasn't there! Luckily the window was open so she could get out. There was green grass all around and flowers by big stones that had writing on them. Lady Bug realized that she was in a cemetery where people who have died are buried. She found Fr. Gilbert hugging a family whose grandpa had just died. Though the family was sad, something that Fr. Gilbert said seemed to give them hope and courage.

Ladybug followed Fr. Gilbert back to his car. On the drive back to the church office, ladybug felt like she was having a very busy day, but for some reason, she felt like she was with Jesus. At Fr. Gilbert's office, a beautiful young lady and a handsome young man walked in holding hands. They wanted to get married. Fr. Gilbert was friendly as he joked and laughed with

READING *continued*

them, but he also asked them some very serious questions and gave them good advice.

Refer to image of Fr. Gilbert

As Father Gilbert walked back to the rectory (his house) to pray before dinner, the lady bug flew over to her friends. She had lots of things to tell them. Bunny sniffed, Dog barked, and Chip squeaked while they all enjoyed some ice cream and listened to lady-bug tell about her day with Fr. Gilbert.

The End

DISCUSS: BE CURIOUS

- Was the bunny right that the priest was different from the other people?
- Why do you think the ladybug felt like she was close to Jesus when she spent the day with the priest?
- How many people did the priest help that day?
- How do you think Fr. Gilbert got the strength to do all the things he did that day?

VISUAL ART

10 min

Display photo of priest elevating the paten and chalice during Mass. Ask questions like:

1. What is the priest doing?
2. Why do you think he looks so serious?
3. What is in the background? What does that teach us?
4. Could you imagine yourself as a priest? What would it feel like?



PRIESTHOOD



PRAYER - Thank You for Priests

Let us thank God for the priests who have baptized us, the priests who have prayed for us, the priests who have taught us, and the priests who have given up their lives to serve us.

Since priests lead us to God at Mass, let's pray and practice some of the parts of the Mass. This will be our "thank you" prayer for priests.

The Lord be with you...

All: And with your Spirit.

Lift up your hearts...

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

All: It is right and just.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your Spirit.

All: Amen.

PRAY TOGETHER

Hail Mary full of Grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou
among women

and blessed is the fruit of
thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary,

Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour
of our death.

AMEN.

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REFLECTIVE PRAYER

5 min

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REFLECTIVE PRAYER *continued*

(If the children aren't familiar with these prayers and responses, have them repeat each response after you.)

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All: Amen.

VOCAL PRAYER

3 min

We can look at the way Mary listened to God. He spoke to her a lot and she always listened with her heart. Whenever we pray the Hail Mary, we can grow close to God like Mary.

Let's pray the Hail Mary together.

(If students do not yet know this prayer, have them repeat it after you line by line.)



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