

Vocation Lesson Plans

1) Baptized for Service

Background: Through our baptism we are called into a relationship with Jesus. Once we meet Jesus we are never the same and our response to this encounter is a life of service.

Lesson One: Meeting Jesus Makes a Difference

Objective: The students will have an opportunity to “meet” Jesus through scripture as they examine how the lives of others have been changed by their encounter with Jesus.

Process: Show scene 23 from “Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring.” Have the students focus on what this clip might say to them about finding ones mission in life. If possible, share an example from your own life on how you found your mission, connecting the example to your relationship with Jesus and how you have met Jesus through prayer and through others. Have the students complete *Activity 1* individually. After completing the exercise, have each student pair with another student to share his or her responses. Have a class or small group discussion on the final two questions of *Activity 1*. As a follow-up, invite the students to create a visual display, a poem, a prayer or a song that expresses how they have met Jesus through prayer or through others, how this encounter has affected their lives, and how this experience can affect their future.

Lesson Two: Responding to Jesus through Service

Objective: The students will examine the service response of those who have met Jesus through prayer and through others.

Process: Show an appropriate clip from “Entertaining Angels” which highlights the story of Dorothy Day. (If you do not use a movie clip, choose another individual to highlight as an example of Christian service, e.g., Mother Teresa, John Baptist de La Salle, or Oscar Romero). Briefly discuss how Dorothy Day or your Christian hero of choice responded to God’s call after his or her experience of Jesus through others or through prayer. Assign small groups the names of other individuals who responded to their experience of Jesus with a life of service. Include some individuals who founded religious congregations as well as some married or single individuals. (Looking through VISION magazine and visiting the web sites of religious communities can help you to create a list of founders/foundresses of religious communities.) Through research on the internet have the students complete Part 1 of *Activity 2*. Invite the students to share their research with others by creating new small groups where each student has researched a different individual and then have the students complete Part 2 of *Activity 2*. As a follow-up have the students decide upon a service opportunity inspired by the person that they researched or learned about. For example, if the person was involved in education, then the students might volunteer to tutor another student. If the person was involved in direct service to the poor homeless, the group might make sandwiches and distribute them at a “midnight run.” Have the students reflect upon their experiences by journaling on the questions in Part 3 of *Activity 2*.

Activity 1 Meeting Jesus Makes a Difference

Since your baptism you probably have had many opportunities to meet Jesus through prayer and through others. You might have realized already that one thing that happens when you meet Jesus is that your life is changed forever.

Below are several examples of people who were affected by their encounter with Jesus. Choose three of the following passages and read them carefully, paying attention to how the people in the story were affected by meeting Jesus. Summarize what happened as a result of the person's encounter with Jesus.

Acts 26:12-18

Luke 19:1-10

Luke 24:13-35

John 1:35-42

Matthew 4:18-21

Mark 10:46-52

Mark 2:13-17

John 1:43-51

John 4:7-19;28-29

Luke 2:8-20

Luke 2:22;36-38

Matthew 9:27-31

Passage: _____

Summary: _____

Passage: _____

Summary: _____

Passage: _____

Summary: _____

Think of one way that you have met Jesus during your life. (Remember, sometimes we can meet Jesus through other people.) Describe that encounter and how you were changed because of it.

What are some of the ways that you would like to get to know Jesus better? What change would you like to see take place in yourself as a result of your relationship with Jesus? How might this determine what you do in your future?

Activity 2

Responding to Jesus through Service

Part 1: In your small group, research information about _____.
Answer the following questions:

- In what ways did this individual meet Jesus through prayer or through other people?

- How did he or she respond to these experiences?

- How do the good works inspired by this person continue today?

Part 2: Create a new small group with those who have researched other individuals. Take some time to share your research with each other. Using the three questions above, summarize what you have learned from this new group.

Part 3: With your small group design a service opportunity based upon the work of the person that you researched or one that you learned about. Arrange to participate in that service opportunity. After being of service, bring your experience to prayer and then answer the following questions in a journal:

- How did this service experience relate to the mission of the individual that I researched or learned about?
- How did I experience Jesus in others through this service experience?
- How might I continue this mission in the future?

Vocation Lesson Plan

2) Free to be what I am with the hope of becoming what God intended me to be.

Day One: Our call through Scripture.

Goal: to see that God wants all people, despite their human weakness, to respond in faith to his many invitations in life, and to enter into communion with him.

Background info:

When we examine Scripture to see what it can reveal to us about the nature of vocation, we recognize two types of calls. First, we can distinguish what we might be called to in a general vocation, the call of God to believe in him. This vocation, common to everyone, is implied in God's very act of creation --- by calling us into existence. In scripture we see other forms of calling, people being called to special missions or tasks that takes its meaning from within the universal the universal call to all persons. That is, some were chosen to be God's special servants in helping in helping all people to hear God's call to faith and to respond to it. Such persons have played unique roles in salvation history; such people as Abraham, Moses Mary and Paul and most especially Jesus himself. In the deepest theological sense, then, our vocation is also to respond in faith to God's many calls to us.

Chose from any of the following ideas:

- 1- God invites all people to listen in faith to his invitations.
- 2- All people are appreciated, needed, wanted and loved by God, even though they are weak (sinful) persons.
- 3- Through the example of the responses of St. Francis of Assisi, Mother Theresa, St. Marcellin Champagnat to God's invitations in their lives, we can learn what responding in faith means.
- 4- There are people today who take God's invitations seriously.
- 5- A celebration of the fact that God has invited us to believe in him and that he calls us to become the best persons we can possibly become.

Scripture Activity on the call of different biblical people

Abraham Gen.12:1-4; Moses Ex.3:1-14; Mary Lk.1:26-38; Rich Young Man Lk.18:18-25. Invite students make a list of the common elements in these calls.

Reflection questions:

- 1- Why do you think we have the tendency to overlook the sins of important people in the bible and in our world?
- 2- Why do you think that the authors of the Bible thought it important not to cover up the bad things about their hero's?
- 3- Why does God remain faithful to these people when they have committed so much evil? Do you experience God's faithfulness when you have sinned?
- 4- Can you think of any modern day person whose life has been changed because he/she devoted him/herself to a positive cause? Who? What happened?

- 5- It seems as if God sometimes works through contradictions – least likely persons become the great persons. At this stage in your life, would it be so impossible to believe that God is asking you to do something special with your life? Why? Why not?

Day Two: Show the Marist Brothers DVD, Real Brothers, Real stories, A Real Difference, and use its accompanying lesson plan.

Goal: To bring the concept of “call” closer to home and have students explore the vocation of the Marist Brotherhood in more depth.