

Fifth Grade: Lesson 19

What Vocation is God Calling Me To?

Lesson Objective:

This lesson explores vocations and invites children to begin to pray about their own vocation. Catechists are encouraged to invite guest speakers who represent the various vocations. In addition, catechists should allocate plenty of time for discussion and questions about discernment of the children's own vocation. Children should be reminded that that all vocations are a call to offer one's entire self to Jesus Christ. We make a gift of ourselves completely to God.

Learning Outcomes: Students Will ...

- Explain vocations as a call to the single, married, consecrated, or ordained life (CCC 871-873; CCC Glossary: Vocation).
- Describe how each vocation builds up the community (CCC 871-873; CCC Glossary: Vocation).
- Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation, one who responds generously to the call of God (CCC 1, 358, 1700, 825, 898, 873, 931). Identify saints that lived the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (CCC 2447).
- Pray and ask God to show each student his/her vocation in service to the community.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons
- Copies: Vocations Wordsearch, Vocations Activity, Discover a Saint

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having a word search available for students to work on as they wait for class to begin.
- [Vocations Wordsearch](#)

Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray the Our Father.
- Invite Jesus to open your hearts and minds to hear His word.

Please note: There are several longer videos in this lesson. You may not have the class time available to show all of them. Please select the ones you think will best fit your students. Thank you.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 19 Video	<p>This video is .59 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: In our past sessions, we have been learning that God wants us to live by following Him in the 10 Commandments, the Beatitudes, and by learning how to control our emotions and feelings.</p> <p>God has specific roles and gifts he gives each of us to be able to live out our vocation.</p> <p>Vocations can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single• Married• Consecrated• Ordained <p>It is not always east to figure out what vocation God is calling you to live. We need to pray and ask God to help us figure it out.</p>
What is Your Vocation?	<p>This video is 5:47</p> <p>Highlights: We all have a vocation. A vocation is a divine call to God's service or to the Christian life.</p> <p>Everything is a type of vocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working your job• Getting married• Having a family• Staying single <p>But what if everything was a way to serve God by sing your gifts, talents, and passions? Vocation happens when you take what you love to the world's</p>

	<p>needs, and when you listen to what the world needs of you.</p> <p>Your life has a purpose, but it doesn't just belong to you. It also belongs to others. You belong to them. They belong to you. We are all part of God's story!</p>
Living a Virtuous Life	<p>This video is 8:52 in length. Since this content is at a higher level, you may want to stop at 5:08 into the video, depending on how your students are understanding and engaged in the content. The entire content, however, is very good and provides a solid explanation of the meaning of virtues.</p> <p>Highlights: Virtue in reference to human beings refers to our ability to reach our highest expression and perfection of our powers. St. Thomas Aquinas defines virtue as the furthest point to which a power can be reached. So, if we talk about the power to be fully human, we talk about practicing virtue.</p> <p>No one is born perfect, and humans work their whole lives to achieve the full power of virtue. Virtues occur in steps. To be able to practice virtues we have to know what they are.</p> <p>The human person is someone becoming. So, personhood unfolds in a dynamic reality. We begin as a person and we're becoming who we're meant to be throughout our whole lives – constantly moving towards our end, which is Heaven.</p> <p>To practice virtue then, literally means to become who we are meant to be.</p> <p>The CCC says a virtue is a habit and a firm disposition to do good. With all our five senses, and our spiritual powers of intellect and free will, we make choices to do good.</p> <p>The goal is to be like Christ. Following God's laws and striving for virtue is the path to happiness. To practice virtues, we form our consciences and in doing so, we form good habits.</p>

3 Theological Virtues of God:

- Faith
- Hope
- Charity

These require us to look beyond ourselves and our own lives and look towards God.

(5:08 into the video – you may decide to stop here, if not, here is the rest of the outline).

Love is the highest theological virtue. In the order of perfection, love precedes faith and hope because goodness and happiness cannot be believed in if it is not hoped for. Such joy cannot be hoped for unless goodness and happiness are first desired and loved.

Authentic virtue is rooted in the highest spiritual power of charity: the love we mean when we say God is love. We need the three theological virtues in order to practice the cardinal virtues.

4 Cardinal Virtues (aka Natural Virtues)

- Prudence
- Justice
- Fortitude
- Temperance

Prudence is the ability to make right decisions and is the highest of all the cardinal virtues. Without prudence the remaining virtues cannot be fully realized.

All seven virtues fit together and depend on each other. We need to practice virtues to form habits.

A habit is something we own. It means we practice the virtue intentionally so that we possess the quality.

Discussion: What stuck with you? What comments or questions do you have.

	We often hear the phrase, live a virtuous life. What does this mean?
2 Priests Journey to their Vocation	This video is 10:41. It is engaging and a great testament to God's love and His call to vocations.
The Call: A Short Movie	<p>This video is 17:24 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: This movie moves through the different vocations in life and people give testimony as to how and why they chose a specific vocation.</p> <div> <p>"We can only learn to know ourselves and do what we can- namely, surrender our will and fulfill God's will in us."</p> <p>St. Teresa of Avila</p> </div>
Vocations Activity	<p style="text-align: center;">Vocations</p> <p>Think about the different vocations in life. What might be some sacrifices involved in living that life? What might be some benefits or fruits of living that life? Which vocation do you think God may be calling you to in the future?</p>
Saint Activity	Students are encouraged to discover a saint that followed the Corporal Works of Mercy. Given the lengthy videos, you may not have time for this activity.